

THE TIMES
1785-1985
Tomorrow

Loaded dice
Has the gambling centre of Atlantic City had its chips?

Flight of fancy
Philip Howard on fears, the wingless budgerigar of Nottingham

Literary lions
The family with three generations in print

Get set, go
What future for Ade Mafe, Britain's young Olympic sprint hope?

Portfolio

The Times Portfolio competition £2,000 prize was won yesterday by Mrs Doris Ruben, who lives in London. Portfolio list, page 14; how to play, information service, back page.

French old folk's home fire kills 25

Twenty-five elderly people, most of them bedridden, died when a government-run old people's home in Grandvilliers, Picardy, was destroyed by fire, President Mitterrand, accompanied by three ministers, visited the scene and spoke to some of the 171 survivors. **Page 5**

Divorce highest among jobless

The divorce rate is highest among the unemployed and marriages where the husband is an unskilled manual worker are four times more likely to end in divorce than where the husband is a professional. **Page 3**

**BR goes pop**

Pop music is to be used in television commercials as part of British Rail's new £9 million advertising campaign. **Page 3**

Pound at \$1.14

The pound plummeted to new depths yesterday, dropping 63 points to \$1.1432, the sterling index falling 0.4 to a record closing low of 72.3. **Page 15**

Savimbi injured

Dr Jonas Savimbi, the UNITA leader, has been seriously wounded in an attack by Angolan government forces, the Portuguese news agency Anop reports.

On this day...

For January 10 our Bicentenary retrospective news column returns to the year 1806 and describes the solemn burial of a national hero. **Page 11**

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Letters: On the countryside, from Sir Derek Barber and others; premature babies, from Prof E.O.R. Reynolds
Leading articles: Geneva Talks; Budgetary Planning; India Now
Features, pages 8, 10
Countdown for an open government; a look behind the Reagan aide - swap; West Germany in the Russian wings; profile of Mark Elder, a younger conductor
Books, page 9
Henry Chadwick reviews *The Rise of Christianity*; Isabel Raphael on fiction of the week; Tim Heald on thrillers; Robin Brook on *SOE* by M.R.D. Foot
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Washington and Moscow jubilant as Shultz reports back

Reagan gets what he wanted in Geneva

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, reported immediately to President Reagan last night on his success in getting the Soviet Union back to nuclear arms negotiations with out pre-conditions, while leaving America's multi-billion dollar "Star Wars" programme untouched.

The United States views the outcome of the two-day Geneva talks as a vital breakthrough in superpower relations. Mr Reagan last night hailed the outcome as good news.

"The President got what he wanted," a senior White House official said.

Administration officials were highly satisfied that, in agreeing to talks on intermediate range nuclear forces, Moscow dropped its demand that the United States stop the deployment of Pershing 2 and cruise missiles in Western Europe. Mr Shultz also refused to accept a Soviet demand for a moratorium on anti-ballistic missile tests at the outset of future substantive negotiations.

His agreement to discuss "preventing an arms race in space" was a gain by Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, but in return Mr Gromyko had to give up his insistence that the United States abandon its Star Wars research programme.

Although offering to put Star Wars on the negotiating table, US officials say it will be for a future President to decide what to do with the project. The United States has no intention of using the research, which will take about five years, as a bargaining chip.

The Geneva talks marked Mr Shultz's first big foreign policy achievement, which undoubtedly will help him in his drive to dominate US foreign policy. Conservatives, particularly in the Pentagon, worry that he may be too flexible in future negotiations.

The Administration believes that Moscow's fear of being unable to win an expensive high technology race to develop space weapons played a significant part in goading it back to arms talks after a 13-month hiatus.

Having agreed to discuss Star Wars, Washington won an important quid pro quo; Moscow's agreement that talks on space weapons should include ground-based missile defence systems as well as space-based systems, a significant shift from the previous Soviet position.

American hardliners remain convinced that Moscow is appearing to be more conciliatory because it wants to influence the current congressional arguments over defence spending levels. They also believe the Kremlin intends to play on West European fears about the impact of the Star Wars programme on America's commitment to the defence of Europe.

There is no optimism in Washington about the chances of an early breakthrough in the ensuing negotiations, which will be highly technical and could take years to show important results.

● Moscow: The official Soviet media yesterday hailed the Geneva agreement as a victory for Kremlin policy and proof of Moscow's determination to bring the White House to a realistic disarmament agreement. (Reuters reports).

Continued on back page, col 2

Why 'Star Wars' is on the agenda

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

The long-term shift away from a balance of nuclear terror to the non-nuclear defence based on the so-called "Star Wars" system would be discussed between the United States and the Soviet Union, Mr Robert McFarlane, the President's National Security Adviser, said in London yesterday.

Speaking after a two-hour briefing session with the Prime Minister at No 10, Mr McFarlane said that detailed negotiation could take place only when, in five to 10 years time, a judgement could be made on the development and deployment of a system.

But he said: "The possibility of defensive deterrence may indeed exist. It is at least reasonable to ask the question, given that in the years between now and the turn of the century our confidence that offensive deterrence will remain stable will probably decline."

"In the meantime, the very concept of defensive deterrence requires a certain amount of disclosure to determine how it would differ from our history of relying on offensive systems."

The pace of balanced introduction of defensive systems, verification and control, all had to be discussed.

"Beyond that, there is a need for us to talk about what kind of process could lead, first, to a reduction in the levels of offensive systems and, over time, to an elevation in defensive systems, if indeed

that is prudent and feasible," Mr McFarlane said.

"And, finally, an understanding of how this entire process, between now and the end of the century and beyond, can move us away from this balance of terror towards a relationship based upon systems which threaten no one."

Mrs Thatcher yesterday gave a warm welcome to the Geneva accord and asked Mr McFarlane to pass on her satisfaction to President Reagan.

Mr McFarlane, who said later that the United States would exclude consideration of the British deterrent system during the forthcoming talks, paid a strong tribute to Mrs Thatcher.

He said: "One of the great values of coming London is that the Prime Minister always has very penetrating questions, particularly on arms control. Her own grasp of the technical complexities, as well as the political overlay is remarkable."

● **WORLD WELCOME:** Western leaders through the world welcomed the Geneva agreement. The UN Secretary-General, Señor Pérez de Cuellar, said in New York he was "greatly encouraged".

In Bonn, the West German Government welcomed the "positive attitude" of both superpowers, and in Paris the French External Relations Minister, M Roland Dumas, said the result justified the hope that "real negotiation" would follow.



Messengers of hope: Four US officials charged with spreading news of the talks to American allies. From left: Mr Robert McFarlane, who came to London, Mr Mark Palmer, Mr Kenneth Adelman and Mr Paul Nitze.

New gas supplies aid winter demand

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

Natural gas has started flowing from the Morecambe Bay offshore gas field, the first off the west coast of Britain, in time to meet present severe winter demand and help to restore supplies to many industrial users cut off in the last few days.

The Morecambe Bay field, wholly operated by British Gas, has yet to be completed, but yesterday morning 120 million cu ft of gas a day, less than 10 per cent of its potential output, began flowing through the national gas system.

The supplies will help British Gas to meet a demand now running at 5,560 million cu ft a day, only marginally below the record of 6,680 million cu ft which occurred in January 1982.

The new supplies will also help many industrial customers to restart processes using gas.

Having accepted cheaper bulk tariffs in return for being cut off when domestic supply soared, they have been badly affected recently. About 900 million cu ft of gas a day having been diverted from them.

The Morecambe Bay field has been developed in such a way that supplies from it can be fed into the national system to meet sudden surges in demand.

Development costs have so far been £1.6 billion for platforms and drilling equipment, undersea and land pipelines and a new gas terminal in Cumbria.

More than 80 per cent of the money has been spent in Britain and the field is the first British offshore project where 100 per cent of the structural equipment needed offshore was built in Britain.

British Gas estimates that in the life of the field another £1 billion will be spent on servicing the offshore production platforms. Three platforms, costing £100 million each, are to be ordered early in 1986.

● A dockyard at Graythorpe, near Hartlepool, Cleveland, is to be reopened after nine years to build an £80 million gas rig. The work will employ about 1,000 people.

Two offshore companies on Tideside and one on the Tyne have won contracts for £23 million worth of module equipment for the American-owned concern Marathon Oil, and will take on 400 extra staff.

NUM left may oust moderates and seize control of executive

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● More than 300 former strikers returned to work yesterday, bringing the total this week to more than 2,000, the coal board said. **Page 2**

● Hopes rose that the 24-hour rail stoppage planned next Thursday in protest against suspension of drivers failing to work coal trains may be called off or limited to local disruption. **Page 2**

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Left-wing miners' leaders have drafted to work yesterday, bringing the total this week to more than 2,000, the coal board said. The National Union of Mineworkers continues to be a militant bastion of organized labour whatever the strike outcome. Moderates would be ousted.

● The TUC is expected to make overtures to the Government in the next few days aimed at getting the NUM and NCB to the negotiating table.

Left-wing miners' leaders have drafted to work yesterday, bringing the total this week to more than 2,000, the coal board said. The National Union of Mineworkers continues to be a militant bastion of organized labour whatever the strike outcome. Moderates would be ousted.

The first leg of the hitherto secret programme involves the expulsion from the union of the "dissident" Nottinghamshire area of the NUM on February 1 unless its 30,000 members accept the overall authority of the national union and its strike policy.

The second and more important step would deliver the NUM into the hands of the left by a reorganisation of the structure of the areas and their representation on the union national executive. At present, the left has a majority of 13 to 11, but under the new system it would have a guaranteed majority of 11 to 7 on a smaller leadership.

Papers on both issues have been drawn up by NUM staff to put to a special delegate conference of the union. They may be discussed at a meeting of the national executive today. Their contents have been leaked to trade officials of the NUM in Nottinghamshire.

The document on Nottinghamshire suggests that if the rebel coalfield refuses to accept the authority of the national union then it should be expelled on February 1 and the NUM should work to supplant the old organization by setting up two rival north and south Nottinghamshire bodies to capture "loyalist" members of the NUM.

If the conflict comes to this point all full-time officials in the branches and members who were opposed to the takeover move adopted last month by the "dissidents" in Nottinghamshire would be urged to join in setting up the "official" NUM in the coalfield.

There are two versions of this proposition and the second, and more likely to be adopted, would give Nottinghamshire a six-month breathing space to make up their minds whether they want to abandon their rebellion and go back into the national union on the executive's terms or remain outside the mainstream of the NUM.

But the main issue now being examined by NUM leaders concerns the balance of power on the national executive. A policy paper recalls that the union's conference in Inverness in 1983 proposed a realignment

Nice, Pisa, Zurich, Jersey and Shannon. The London Weather Centre said that the slight thaw would continue today but temperatures would drop again tomorrow, Saturday and Sunday, as low as -10°C in places. Most of the country would be cold, dry and frosty with the snow pushed to the West. Freezing fog could continue to be a hazard, the centre added.

In London, the ambulance service reported a record number of calls from Monday, many involving falls and broken bones. There were 2,662 calls, against a normal daily average of 1,700.

In Liverpool, the RAC reported "atrocious" conditions, caused by freezing fog. Flights at Heathrow airport were delayed by up to an hour when the diesel engines of winter lorries froze. Heathrow was also affected by closure of other airports because of the bad weather. These included

made on ending the wardship order. Among options open to the judge are to grant the natural father full custody and end the wardship order, or to grant him day-to-day care and control but keep the wardship order in force. In that way the court could keep watch over the child until it was 18 years of age.

The restrictions on reporting cases concerning children are held to be in the children's interests. In the present case, a ban on identifying the father would prevent any possibility of the child learning of the circumstances of his birth by chance later in life.

Cases in the High Court family division over wardship, guardianship and adoption of children are almost invariably heard in private and the Administration of Justice Act 1960 makes it plain that publication of details about such cases may be regarded as contempt of court.

But the courts have chosen to take a pragmatic view over the provisions of the Act. In a Court of Appeal case in 1977 the judges overruled a decision that publication of information was absolutely prohibited and that mere publications was a contempt.

Lord Denning, then Master of the Rolls, emphasized that publication may be a contempt and it was for courts to decide if it was or not.

The routine ban on reporting is lifted where a judge thinks publicity is necessary, for example where children are seized in "rug of love" cases. They also occasionally give their judgements in public, as Mr Justice Layton has indicated he may do.

The judge's authority in wardship cases stems from the age-old relationship between the sovereign and her subjects. They owe her allegiance, and the Crown in turn offers them protection, with a special obligation in the case of minors.

But the courts have chosen to

Let them go, Runcie plea to Gadaffi

By Richard Dowden

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, has appealed directly to Colonel Gadaffi for the release of the four Britons being held in Libya as political hostages. His appeal came as another Briton was paroled for five years in Tripoli yesterday for carrying hashish.

In a letter to the Libyan leader, made public in Tripoli yesterday, Dr Runcie said: "I believe that your readiness to listen to a humanitarian appeal from the Church in this country has made a deep impression and that your desire to see the four British detainees released has opened up new possibilities for peace and understanding between our two countries."

Mr Terry Waite, the Archbishop's envoy, who took the letter to Libya, is seeking a further meeting with the Libyan leader. Yesterday he talked to about 30 relatives of Libyans imprisoned in Britain.

Mr Waite, who visited a number of Libyans in prison before he left for Tripoli, assured the families that none of them had been tortured.

The main aim of Mr Waite's visit to Libya, the release of the four Britons, remains elusive.

Mr Waite said yesterday that he would stay in Libya until a decision was made and was pressing officials for a date when it would be taken.

The Briton jailed yesterday is Mr Michael King, aged 33, a Scottish engineer who had worked in Libya for two years. He was fined 5,000 dinars (about £8,400) for carrying hashish.

Mrs Jean King, his wife, said from their home in Auchtermuchty, Fife yesterday, that she was shocked by the severity of the sentence.

Mr King will be able to appeal against the sentence, but he and Mr Robert Maxwell, who is serving a 12-year sentence for corruption, are not considered to be "political hostages" as the other four detainees are.

Multi-billion pound repair bill warning

A huge multi-billion pound backlog of repairs to Britain's schools, houses, hospitals, roads, sewers and public buildings must be tackled urgently, the Government was told yesterday in a report from the National Economic Development Office.

The document, said: hospitals needed £2,000 million spent on repairs and that serious defects in housing could cost £5,000 million to rectify.

Spending on repairs in some schools and Government buildings was 40 per cent below that necessary.

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Pure cotton shirt	£32.50	£17.95
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Larvin silk tie	£22.95	£49
V-neck Shetland sweater	£19	£11.50
Three for		
Leather belt, reversible	£10.50	£6.95
Yankee leather shoes	£65	£42
Fashion Accessories Examples:		
Purse wallet	£38	£19
Nina Ricci sunglasses	£69	£34.50
Umbrella, with wooden animal-head handle	£11.95	£7.50
Fabrics Example:		
Printed wool, 140cm wide	metre	£16.95
Tote Bags Examples:		
Flight bag, with organiser	£31.50	£21
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Government's medical advisers oppose plan for limited drugs list

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

The Government's senior medical advisers have come out against the Government's plans to introduce a limited list of drugs available on the National Health Service.

The Standing Medical Advisory Committee, whose job is to advise Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, on clinical matters, decided at its meeting yesterday that it opposed the plan to draw up an effective black list of branded and unbranded drugs for which the health service will no longer pay.

The opposition of the committee, whose members include leading specialists and the presidents and deans of the royal colleges and faculties of medicine, is the most serious blow yet to the Government's plans.

Some of the committee's members are there ex-officio and it includes leading British Medical Association figures who have firmly opposed the Government's plans, but the committee's advice is seen as vigorously independent.

The committee's chairman, Dr Stuart Carne, said that yesterday its advice was confidential to Mr Fowler. But it is

understood to have said that, while it backed moves for more economic and effective prescribing, the Government's approach was wrong.

An appeal mechanism would be needed to allow doctors to go outside the limited list if a patient needed a particular branded drug, and there could be problems of quality control over unbranded drugs.

Introducing the list through regulations would make it inflexible and difficult to administer.

The committee's advice came as the council of the British Medical Association decided to seek a meeting with Mr Fowler to give details of its opposition to the plan.

Dr John Marks, chairman of council, said doctors would be happy to see locally agreed lists set up, on the lines already used in many hospitals, but not a national list of banned drugs imposed by regulation.

The difference was that with a locally agreed list doctors could prescribe outside it if a patient had particular needs. Under the Government's plans it appeared that the list would be rigid and doctors would not be able to do that.

Once a limited list was established in the areas chosen by the Government - laxatives, painkillers and tranquillizers among them - it would be extended sooner or later to other areas.

Where limited lists had been introduced in other countries they had not saved the money promised. "We seriously doubt whether the Department of Health and Social Security will save as much money as it claims, but we are quite sure that patients will suffer in the process."

Dr Michael Wilson, chairman of the general medical services committee, said financial considerations were dictating what was on the list. If drugs to be banned under the provisional list were put back on health service prescription, others would have to come off to make the planned £100 million saving.

Family doctors in Scotland who are members of the British Medical Association and of the Royal College of General Practitioners, have joined forces yesterday to condemn the restricted list of drugs.

Horse-powered ski jumping



Nursery jump: Take-off (left) and landing (below) for Stephen Rossfield, aged 11, as he is taken through ski paces with a difference by his mother, Mrs Jane Rossfield, a former skiing champion. She is riding Sundance, a friend's horse, at her home in Bishopthorpe, near York.

Scientists scathing on organic farming

From John Young, Agriculture Correspondent, Oxford

The belief that cheaper and healthier food could be produced by so-called organic methods was dismissed by speakers at the Oxford Farming Conference yesterday.

Mr Peter King, general secretary of the Society of Chemical Industry and former research director of the use of nitrogen fertilizers would result in reduced yields without adequate cost saving to compensate.

"Given the imperative need for low-cost production, organic farming will have only limited application", he said. "There will always be the sucker market in Hampshire but not a lot more."

Professor Ronald Bell, director-general of the Government's Agricultural Development and Advisory Service, said that there were many well-meaning people who felt that the time had come to call a halt to modern methods of farming.

There were those who saw in organic farming the means of providing healthier foodstuffs; there were those whose concern was to limit environmental pollution; and there were those who instinctively felt that the "dog and stick" farming of yesterday must be more "natural" and therefore better.

The first two concerns could be scientifically investigated, as was being done, and it was to be hoped that society and farmers would react sensibly to the outcome. However, farmers would want to produce what the consumer preferred and was prepared to pay for.

Conference views challenged

Organic farming methods produce more nutritious crops and better-tasting food, while chemical fertilizers can damage the soil and lead to health hazards, a food scientist said yesterday. (Our Science Correspondent writes.)

Professor Derek Bryce-Smith of Reading University challenged the views expressed in Oxford. He said: "I would seriously question any claim that modern farming methods, particularly the indiscriminate use of fertilizers and the survival use of pesticides, are science."

Food labels will show nutritional value

By Robin Young

Two of Britain's biggest supermarket chains have launched new labelling schemes to give customers more information about the nutritional value of the foods they sell.

Tesco, which has been working on its scheme for 18 months, has 250 own-label products in the shops this week carrying nutrition information panels. The company has also introduced a logo to draw attention to foodstuffs that offer particular health benefits, such as high fibre or low fat content, and promises to be the first supermarket group to provide data on all its own-label products.

Sainsbury's has also made a start on nutrition labelling and is to introduce standard nutrition information panels on own-label foods. The first product to carry the panel, low fat cheese, is in the shops now.

Priority in extending the labelling is being given, as at Tesco, to foods that consumers already associate with special health connotations, favourable or unfavourable, such as dairy products, breakfast cereals and bread.

Tesco expects to have nutrition labels on all its own-label products by May 1986, while Sainsbury's says that its scheme will be extended to all appropriate own-label foods "in the short and medium term".

Both companies are responding to reports by two independent medical consultative committees. Those are the National Advisory Committee on Nutrition Education, which looked at how health in general was affected by diet, and the Committee on Medical Aspects of Food Policy, which examined the specific problems of coronary heart disease in relation to diet.

The two committees recommended that people should eat less fat, sugar and salt, and more fibre. It is expected that the Government will issue guidelines soon for the general application of nutrition labelling from next year, to help consumers to choose a more healthy diet.

Tesco commissioned a Gallup poll which found that nearly three-quarters of people interviewed said they were concerned about eating healthily, and less than a third thought there was adequate nutrition information on existing packs.

A booklet introducing Tesco customers to the company's Healthy Eating Programme is available in all stores.

No visitors for Princess Margaret

Princess Margaret, recovering in the Brompton Hospital, west London, from an operation on Sunday to remove a small portion of her left lung, has still not been visited by her children, Lord Linley and Lady Sarah Armstrong-Jones, in spite of hospital bulletins that she is making an "excellent" recovery.

The children flew back from a holiday in Venice on Monday night, and were expected to see their mother at once. A spokesman for the Princess's household said yesterday: "Obviously she is not yet well enough to receive visitors". Brompton Hospital repeated yesterday that it did not intend to issue any further bulletins on the Princess's condition.

Group may sue over kidney man

Oxford Cyrenians, the agency who have been looking after Mr Derek Sage, a kidney patient, for eight years, will today consider suing Oxford regional health authority over its refusal to keep him alive by continuing to treat him.

If the Cyrenians, who look after single homeless men, decide to go ahead, it will be the first time that National Health Service policy on provision for kidney patients has been challenged in the courts.

Mr Sage, aged 44, is staying in the Hospital of St John and St Elizabeth in north London, after Oxford decided to stop giving him dialysis treatment.

Daimler-Benz is voted top truck

Daimler-Benz, the West German vehicle maker, has won the "Truck of the Year" title for its range of 7.5 tonne and 11 tonne lightweight delivery lorries.

The award, made by an international panel of 13 specialist journalists, was won in the face of strong competition from European manufacturers, including Leyland and Ford. The company's British subsidiary, Mercedes-Benz UK, plans to sell 1,300 of the new 7.5 tonne trucks this year.

Open trial for Ponting sought

Solicitors representing Mr Clive Ponting, the senior civil servant charged under the Official Secrets Act with leaking confidential documents about the sinking of the General Belgrano, are to seek a ruling on Monday that the jury in his trial will not be subject to security vetting, and the trial will be held in open court.

Mr Ponting's trial is due to begin at the Central Criminal Court on January 28.

Councils' pay offer rejected

Leaders of 900,000 local authority manual workers yesterday rejected a fresh pay offer of 4½ per cent and attacked management for refusing to change their settlement date.

They are seeking a "substantial" increase on the weekly rates which range from £70.30 to £85.25 and a change in the starting date from November to July. More talks have been agreed for January 25.

Correction

The Automobile Association's Inn of the Year, mentioned yesterday, is The Mill House Inn, Trebarwith, Cornwall.

The Times overseas selling prices: Australia \$26.25, Belgium 110, Canada \$27.50, Denmark 120, France 100, Germany 100, Greece 120, Holland 120, India 120, Ireland 120, Italy 120, Japan 120, New Zealand 120, Norway 120, Portugal 120, South Africa 120, Spain 120, Sweden 120, Switzerland 120, Taiwan 120, Thailand 120, USA \$26.25, Yugoslavia 120.

Punk kills himself after knifing family

By Michael Horsnell

A punk rocker, aged 17, who the police believe was involved in glue sniffing, killed himself yesterday after knifing his mother and grandmother to death at their home in Essex.

Detectives investigating the deaths believe that Stephen Webb, aged 38, and Mrs Marjorie Webb, aged 70, before he knifed himself and jumped from an upstairs window at the family house in London Road, Leigh-on-Sea.

The incident was discovered by a milkman, who called at a newsagent opposite the house. He alerted the police.

The bodies of the two women were discovered in a downstairs room after the police broke in Stephen's body lay in the snow on the front lawn. A bag believed to contain a glue-sniffing kit was taken from the scene.

Neighbours said that the youth, who was unemployed, was a punk rocker with a Mohican haircut and outlandish clothes.

One neighbour said: "He had green hair one week and orange hair the next. I think his mother was very concerned about him."

Mrs Carol Carter, a hair-

dresser who works near by, said: "The two women gave Stephen their lives. When Mrs Rolph's husband died, she joined lots of clubs but when he got into trouble, she gave them all up."

"He had been in trouble from glue sniffing. Stephen's mother lived for her horses and her job, and he was brought up by his grandmother. She thought the world of him, even though he had been in trouble."

Stephen is believed to have dived through his closed upstairs window with a sheath knife in his hand. He had stab wounds in the chest.

The police believe that he had been sniffing glue since he was a schoolboy. He is understood to have been spoken to several times by them.

Stephen had lived with his grandmother and mother since his parents divorced five years ago.

Det Chief Inspector Ken Smith, who is heading the inquiry, said: "We are checking Stephen's glue-sniffing activities. I cannot say yet whether that had anything to do with the killings, but there is no other apparent motive for his burst of violence at the moment."

Few takers for airports sale offer

By Ronald Faux

The Government's plan to sell off seven of Scotland's smaller airports has so far shown little promise of being a successful exercise in privatisation. Although 200 inquiries have been received, only one firm offer has been handed to the Civil Aviation Authority. It was for Benbecula airport in the Western Isles. The local council has indicated that it is prepared to take over the airfield provided no cost is involved.

The Scottish Office still hopes that interest in Sumburgh, Kirkwall, Wick, Inverness, Benbecula, Tiree andIslay airports may harden into positive offers. The British Airports Authority, however, has made clear that it is no longer interested in taking over Inverness and Sumburgh.

Teachers reject cash offer

By a Staff Reporter

The Educational Institute of Scotland, the largest Scottish teachers' union, has rejected a government initiative to put £100,000 extra into reform of the education system, calling it a ploy to respond to the teachers' impending strike.

The Scottish Office said yesterday that the extra funds would help teachers preparing material for the standard grade courses which form the first phase of the reform. The next two phases have been postponed indefinitely.

According to the institute, that is because of the threatened disruption by its members who have been refused an independent pay review.

Strikes begin on Tuesday in the constituencies of eight Scottish MPs.

Court plea to limit pickets

From Tim Jones, Cardiff

The High Court in London will tomorrow be asked to ban mass picketing in the South Wales coalfield. The action brought by 20 miners could throw the union's leadership into further conflict with the law, if it is successful.

The miners, 19 of whom are working, have served writs on, and named in the action, Mr Arthur Scargill, president, Mr Mick McGahey, vice-president and Mr Peter Heathfield, general secretary. In addition, the action names Mr Emyll Williams, president of the South Wales miners, Mr Terry

The miners' strike

Thomas, his vice-president, and Mr George Rees, the area secretary.

Mr Gareth Jones, the solicitor representing the men said: "We will be seeking for the first time a declaration that the picketing that we have seen at times in South Wales is unlawful."

"The men will be looking for an injunction limiting picketing to just six men at their own place of work, in line with guidelines."

One of the miners involved, Mr Iwan Thomas, a member of the national working miners' committee, said last night: "We

Rail action may be called off

By Staff Reporters

Hopes rose last night that the 24-hour rail stoppage planned for next Thursday could be headed off or limited to local disruption.

A special committee of Aslef, the train drivers' union, and the National Union of Railwaymen, was yesterday planning to hit key targets within the London, Midland and Eastern region.

The officials' strategy will have to be backed by the executives of both unions today, but some sources within the NUR believe that the action, called because members have been suspended by British Rail for failing to work on coal trains, may be called off.

Management privately appeared confident that the stoppage would be cancelled, as was disruption last September.

Mr Jim O'Brien, BR's joint managing director, said there was no possible justification for the day of action, and the board had not received any communication from the unions. If the action did go ahead he thought it would have no more than a local impact.

If the campaign goes ahead union strategists will hope to avoid a patchy response by calling out their most militant members in important signal boxes and depots.

Working pitmen's leader in court

By Peter Davenport

One of the leaders of the working miners' legal campaign against the National Union of Mineworkers is to face a court next month, accused of two burglaries in 1977.

Ken Foulstone, aged 44, a miner at Manton colliery in the Yorkshire coalfield, appeared before Doncaster magistrates late on Tuesday. He was remanded on bail to appear on February 5.

Mr Foulstone, who with his colleague, Mr Bob Taylor, secured a High Court judgement last September declaring the strike in Yorkshire and Derbyshire to be unofficial, was charged with breaking into Canley Hall, near Doncaster, in November 1977, and stealing antiques worth £1,760. He is also accused of burglary at a house in Doncaster the next month and stealing property valued at £1,613.

The legal moves by Mr Foulstone, of Milton, near Retford, Nottinghamshire, and Mr Taylor were seen as important in persuading men to abandon the strike in Yorkshire, where more than 3,500 miners are now working.

The Derbyshire area of the NUM said yesterday that it is to take legal advice with a view to an appeal against the sentences totalling 2½ years' jail imposed on nine miners from Shirebrook

colliery for setting fire to coal board buses.

More than 300 former strikers returned to work yesterday bringing the total this week to more than 2,000 according to figures provided by the National Coal Board.

An official said that yesterday's total of "new faces", as well as the number of miners who have abandoned the pit strike since the beginning of the week were the highest since the mid-November surge.

"It confirms our expectations of an accelerated return to work in the new year", he added.

According to the board, 71 of the 150 pits that have men working in them are producing coal. That leaves 24 still strikebound.

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Stoppage is averted at Financial Times

By Barrie Clement, Labour Reporter

A dispute which threatened to stop the publication of the Financial Times was averted last night after both sides agreed to peace talks today under the auspices of the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service.

The management postponed the production of an enlarged paper until next Monday, to allow the talks to go ahead.

Machine managers belonging to the National Graphical Association (NGA) has refused to produce a paper of more than 40 pages scheduled for today's edition until a dispute about manning and pay was settled.

The NGA argued that although there was a special

agreement arising out of the 10-week strike in 1983 to produce papers of more than 40 pages on 157 occasions a year, that deal had now lapsed. The company argued that the agreement was still in existence.

Mr Andrew Kerr, the man who arbitrated in the 1983 dispute, will meet the company and the NGA today. Both sides are seeking clarification of the part of his original adjudication which referred to enlarged papers.

It is expected that the talks will have to take in the pay and manning dispute and the search for a joint press room agreement, also involving the print union Sogat.

FA chief reunited with pilots he saved

Mr Ted Croker, the Football Association secretary, yesterday made an emotional return to remote moorland where his bravery saved the lives of two Royal Air Force colleagues 39 years ago.

He was reunited for the first time with Mr George Robinson and Mr John Dowthwaite at the spot where their Airspeed Oxford trainer crashed into a hillside in Derbyshire's Peak District.

After the crash in freezing weather in December 1945, Mr Croker, now aged 60, wrapped the two badly-injured men in a parachute and, with two broken ankles, crawled more than a mile over snow-covered moors to reach a remote farm and raise the alert.

Nearly 24 hours after the crash, rescue teams found the then Warrant Officer Robinson, from Sheffield, and Flight Lieutenant Dowthwaite, from Bradford, West Yorkshire, barely alive. Mr Robinson, who lost a leg from frostbite, and Mr Dowthwaite, also permanently injured, met Mr Croker in the village of "dale yesterday to relieve the ama.

The three men, all experienced pilots, were flying on a map-reading training mission, when they crashed into Brown Knoll in the Pennines, between Manchester and Sheffield.

Mr Croker only realized how lucky he was to have survived the crash after seeing photographs of the wreckage, parts of which still remain at the remote spot.

"It really was a succession of three or four miracles", he said. "The first was that we all survived the crash. After that it was remarkable they survived



Mr Ted Croker (centre) reunited with Mr George Robinson (left) and Mr John Dowthwaite 39 years after their aircraft crashed.

22 hours up there. We were wearing only battledress uniform and no flying kit, except for helmets.

"I crawled down most of the way but saved time by sliding down on my backside. Luckily I went down the only direction where I could have found any life."

Skill centres plan based on 'unfair' data

The Manpower Services Commission's plan to close down 29 of its 87 skill centres is based on unfair cost comparisons with other training establishments, the Commons employment select committee was told last night (Richard Evans writes).

Mr John Randall, deputy general secretary of the Civil Service Union, told MPs that

skill centres were under threat because colleges of further education, the principle alternative provider of such training, were supposedly more price competitive.

But different methods were used for calculating the costs. Skill centres' costs and prices included numerous overheads which colleges passed on to local authorities, and different

accounting systems used for valuing capital assets also helped colleges.

It was vital any decisions on the skill centres' future were based on price factors which compared like with like.

The MSC, which has deferred a final decision on the closure plan until the select committee has completed its investigation, is due to meet on January 24.

Benefits doubt

The Association of Metropolitan Authorities said yesterday that it might take Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, to court if he insisted that changes to social benefits go ahead. The association said that the new benefits regulations could be invalid.

Marriages of unemployed and unskilled more likely to end in divorce

By David Walker, Social Policy Correspondent

Divorce, once the privilege of the rich, now ends a striking proportion of the marriages of working class, poor and unemployed people.

Social Trends, the Government's compendium of statistics, published today, shows the marriages of manual workers and the unemployed to be highly unstable on present trends: a marriage where the husband is an unskilled manual worker is four times more likely to end in divorce than one where the husband has a profession.

DIVORCE PATTERNS	
Husband's social background	Divorces per 1,000 (Husbands aged 15-59)
Professional	7
Intermediate	12
Unskilled non-manual	16
Skilled manual	14
Semi-skilled manual	15
Unskilled manual	30
Unemployed husbands	36
All husbands	15

Overall the divorce rate is highest among the unemployed, draws disproportionately from the unskilled. For all age groups the divorce rate for the unemployed is double the national average.

Marriage for young working class people is desperately unstable. For every 1,000 husbands aged 20 to 29, 55 husbands from unskilled manual backgrounds are likely to go through divorce compared with 10 from a professional background.

If 1981 divorce rates (the most recent year for these calculations) continue through the 1980s, almost three in five young men marrying before they are 20 will be divorced, regardless of background. One in two women who married as teenagers will also see their homes broken.

Social portrait of Britain still shows stability and prosperity

The picture that emerges from this year's *Social Trends* is of a stable, still prosperous and rather sleepy Britain, apparently not much changed by any of the radical policies adopted by Mrs Margaret Thatcher's Government.

Mass unemployment is taking a toll lower down the social scale, with measurable impact on divorce and alcoholism rates. But elsewhere there is a sign of new mobility or economic reform.

Britons still enjoy a good night's sleep, working men getting eight hours and working women an additional 20 minutes. They are cleaner (how else do we explain an increase of 32 litres a head a day in water consumption in the six years before 1983?)

Factory pollution, for example emissions of sulphur dioxide, is at a postwar low and emissions of lead from cars and lorries has dropped 19 per cent from its 1973 peak, in spite of a 16 per cent increase in petrol consumption during the 1970s.

More money, more fish

Britons are better off. Real disposable income a head has, admittedly, seen-sawed since Mrs Thatcher took office, but in 1983 it was 3 per cent above the 1980 figure and up 10 per cent on 1973. Ownership of con-

sumer durables is up, with only a tiny number of households lacking a refrigerator or television. During the past five years ownership of dishwashers and tumble driers has significantly increased, along with that of video recorders.

Whether Britons now eat better is unclear. Consumption of fresh vegetables is down while that of processed and frozen products is up. The cholesterol count might be improved by a marked fall in the use of butter and more fish eating; but intake of fats in general seems to be rising.

Population slowdown

Overall, the population is stable, growing by only half a million during the past decade and unlikely to grow by more than the same amount by the end of the century. Mobility within the country is not great. Even East Anglia as the fastest growing region has added only 200,000 people in 10 years.

About 94 per cent of British residents are of white ethnic origin and the birth rate for mothers born outside the United Kingdom has changed little recently. In fact the fertility of women of West Indian descent has dropped sharply, along with that of Irish women; there seems every

reason to expect that as the number of Asian women of child bearing age falls, Asian birth rates will also fall.

Safer and healthier

Within this stable picture there has been a drop in the number of accidental deaths. Road injuries seem to have lessened significantly since seat belts became compulsory two years ago. Children's teeth are better: comparing 1983 with 1973, the proportion of children with known tooth decay has fallen for every age group.

Altruistic Britain

Membership of out-going young people's organizations, notably the Scouts and Guides, is buoyant. About a quarter of the population does some sort of voluntary work; the National Association of Leagues of Hospital Friends reports an 80 per cent increase in membership over a decade.

Public provision for the needy increases in some sectors: local authorities adapted 10,000 more private dwellings for occupation by disabled people in 1983 than in the previous year.

More equality?

During the past decade Britain may have become more egalitarian. The Inland Revenue calculates that the most wealthy 1 per cent of the population has lost out. In 1971 the 1 per cent owning most of the marketable wealth plus occupational and state pension rights owned 21 per cent of total wealth. By 1982 this had dropped to 11 per cent.

Even excluding pension rights, which are a form of wealth, the distribution of wealth (wealth, that is, as disclosed to the Inland Revenue) had become slightly more widely distributed.

Length of working time necessary to pay for goods/services			
	Two-child family husband only working		Both earnings
	1971 hr min	1983 hr min	1983 hr min
Large white loaf	0	7	4
1 lb rump steak	54	52	32
Pint milk	5	4	2
Pint beer	13	12	7
Bottle scotch	4	2	1
20 cigarettes	22	20	12
Weekly gas bill	1	1	40
Gallon petrol (4 star)	19	14	8
Colour TV licence	19	14	8
LP	3	1	1

* Assuming average hourly male earnings
** Assuming also average hourly female earnings

HOUSEHOLD TRENDS		
	early 1970s	early 1980s
Shape of households		
Pensioners, as % of all households	Up 14	17
Married couples with young children as %	Down 35	30
One parents with young children as %	Up 3	5
Big families (more than five people) as %	Down 14	10
Money		
Direct tax, as % of total household income	Up 17	21
Real disposable income per head	Up 83 (1980=100)	103
Spending on drink	Same 83 (1980=100)	84
Spending on foreign travel	Up 82 (1980=100)	106
Spending on clothes and shoes	Up 86 (1980=100)	108
Quality of life		
Owner occupation, as %	Up 60	63
Stock of dwellings		
Central heating, as % of all households	Up 39	64
Telephones, as % of all households	Up 45	77
Joining in		
Membership of Christian churches as % adult pop	Down 20.2	16
Membership of trade unions	Same 48	48

Most believe society 'racist'

By Pat Healy, Social Services Correspondent

Nine out of 10 people believe that Britain is a racially prejudiced country, according to a social survey reported in the new edition of *Social Trends*.

Almost half believe that prejudice against black and Asian people has worsened in recent years, and that it will be greater in the future. Nearly two-thirds believe that discrimination in the labour market, with black people being denied jobs because of their race.

But despite the almost unanimous view that Britain is a racist country, only a third of the nationally representative

sample of adults questioned admitted to racial prejudice themselves. Those admitting racial prejudice displayed racist attitudes more often on specific questions than those who denied it.

The openly prejudiced were more likely to be hostile to race relations legislation, to the idea of working for a black or Asian boss, to immigration by black people, and to the prospect of having a black relative through marriage.

But the survey showed that there has been a big shift in public opinion towards laws against racial discrimination. When the first such law was introduced in 1968, it was supported by 45 per cent of the population. That proportion has grown to 70 per cent, with

older people and manual workers more likely to be opposed.

Opposition to further black immigration continues to be high with more than 60 per cent against more West Indians and Asians being allowed in. But 42 per cent were also opposed to further immigration from EEC countries, and 26 per cent were against more Australians and New Zealanders coming to Britain.

However, most people thought that schools should make some provision for minority cultures once people were settled in Britain. About three-quarters supported special English classes where needed.

Tomorrow: Britain's two nations.

BR uses pop tunes in £9m new image drive

By Michael Bailey, Transport Editor

Jimmy Savile and "This is the Age of the Train" were finally shunted into the siding yesterday in favour of a bright new image for British Rail.

The new message, at a cost of £9 million a year is "we're getting there". Mr Jim O'Brien, BR's joint managing director announced yesterday.

Music from six pop tunes will appear in television commercials, the first of which will be screened this evening.

Inquest after double chin surgery death

The North Buckinghamshire coroner's office is to hold an inquest next month on Mrs Amanda Martin, aged 27, a woman who died last week after plastic surgery to remove a double chin.

She is believed to have suffered a heart attack after undergoing surgery in Stoke Mandeville hospital.

Mr John Martin, her husband said that she wanted the operation to improve her appearance.

Synagogue humour defended by rabbi

By Tony Samstag

A rabbi who was dismissed by his congregation last year defended yesterday his attempts to inject humour into the synagogue and deplored the "tendency to treat every synagogue occasion as if it were a memorial service".

Rabbi Clifford Cohen, aged 36, arguing his own claim for unfair dismissal from Southgate Progressive Synagogue, north London, told an industrial tribunal: "Jewish celebrations ought to be fun."

On some occasions, in a particular marriage he had been asked to make his address entertaining and humorous and his efforts had been well received.

He denied vigorously that he had neglected the pastoral side of his work or had been reluctant to visit sick members of the congregation.

He estimated that he worked a 60-hour week, of which about 20 were taken up by fixed teaching commitments. Pastoral work accounted for at least another five to eight hours a week.

Rabbi Cohen said he resented the implication that he was reluctant to visit the sick. Any list of those he had visited would include "half the synagogue council".

Witnesses for Rabbi Cohen included the girl who had been the butt of one of his jokes when she tripped while carrying a glass of wine. Miss Jackie Coe, aged 15, said she considered the rabbi a good teacher.

Her father, Mr Alan Coe, said he had not been offended at the joke - "one drink and she's anybody's" - which had been made six years ago. At the time he had sensed "a swell of amusement" in the congregation and there had been no suggestion that anyone had taken offence.

Outside the hearing, Rabbi Cohen said that he saw little future as a rabbi.

The hearing continues today.



Top of the world: Julie Donnelly (left) and Elaine Brook on Kalapathar, with Everest behind them.

Blind woman's Himalayas climb

Julie Donnelly, aged 31, a switchboard operator in a City bank and blind since the age of eight, determined to prove that "people with physical handicaps can do anything if they have the energy", has climbed 18,000 feet up the western face of Mount Everest, to the summit of Kalapathar.

Together with Elaine Brook, an old friend and veteran mountain climber, Julie spent the month of December making the dangerous assault on the Himalayas.

They began planning the trip last June, not simply as a holiday, but as a way of raising money for Julie's favourite charity, the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association.

Elaine, who had made the journey before, said Julie had proved an excellent climber.

Rise in cost of houses higher than forecast

By Christopher Warman, Property Correspondent

House prices increased by 9.1 per cent on average in the United Kingdom in 1984, the Halifax Building Society announced yesterday.

That is higher than their forecast of an increase of 8 per cent for the year, and the Halifax admit that their figure was exceeded because "prices did not slacken in the second half of the year as much as we had expected".

The market remained confident and active, and prices increased by 3.3 per cent between June and December, they said. They expect this confidence to be maintained and to see price rises of about 10 per cent during 1985.

Greater London prices increased in 1984 by 14.1 per cent while the increase in the North-west was 5.1 per cent. Wales 5.3 per cent and the North 5.8 per cent.

Statistics produced by the Halifax also showed that council tenants buying their homes paid on average one third of the price paid by private house buyers. The average house price at the end of the year was £32,211.

Portable video with playback in viewfinder

Panasonic, the Japanese electronics group, has launched a portable video camera recorder, which uses standard VHS video cassette tapes capable of playing for about four hours (Our Technology Correspondent writes).

Home movie makers can play back their recordings in the camera's viewfinder or display them in the normal fashion on a television screen. The equipment is expected to retail at about £1,000.

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PARLIAMENT JANUARY 9 1985

Legislation may be required to ban propaganda

COUNCIL SPENDING

If a current court case did not resolve the issue of use of ratepayers' money for political propaganda, the Government did not preclude the introduction of legislation. Mr Kenneth Baker, Minister for Local Government, said during question time.

He said that he hoped shortly to be in a position to advise the Commons of the details of an intended impartial inquiry into the use by local authorities of sections 137 (expenditure for purposes not otherwise authorized) and 142 (provision of information on matters affecting local government of the Local Government Act, 1972).

Mr David Amess (Bassilton, C) opened by offering good wishes for 1985.

He continued: Some Conservative MPs are growing impatient at the Government's seeming slowness to introduce legislation curbing local authorities' waste of ratepayers' money on political propaganda and the seeming inability of the district authorities to act in this manner because of their narrow remit.

Mr Baker thanked Mr Amess for the good wishes, adding amid laughter: We shall need all of them.

He continued: The money which is spent by local authorities on political propaganda is scandalous. Mr Amess's own council is spending money in that way.

The GLC has already spent £10 million and the metropolitan counties £3 million.

There is a court case in which Westminster City Council has won the first round against the Inner London Education Authority in its desire to spend £750,000 of ratepayers' money. That is going to appeal.

This is an area of some clouded views. If the court case does not resolve the matter we do not preclude legislation.

Mr Derek Conway (Shrewsbury and Aitcham, C) has consulted the law officers. If consultation takes place, will he direct their attention to local authorities placing advertisements in organs like *Labour Herald*?

Mr Baker: We have consulted the law officers and I shall draw their attention to that point.

Mr Mark Carlsle (Warrington, South, C) It is a disgrace and an abuse that local authorities such as the Labour-dominated Warrington Borough Council should use ratepayers' money for support of striking miners, particularly when some ratepayers are unfortunately

unemployed through no fault of their own.

Mr Baker: Some Labour authorities are using the powers in section 137 in a way never envisaged in the original legislation. That is why we shall have an impartial inquiry into that abuse and many others as well.

Mr Tony Banks (Newham, North-West, Lab): How much taxpayer's money was spent on bringing out the Tory political propaganda in the last six months of the GLC and after the Metropolitan Councils? Are these documents (which he displayed to the House) based on a Central Office hand-out?

Mr Baker: The two admirable leaflets he has held up are not political propaganda. (Laughter.) They are the explanation of the main points of the Government's proposals. It is well recognized that the Government produce leaflets of explanation of this sort after second reading. It was done in the Telecommunications Bill and the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill. The cost was £9,600 and that does not even buy half a page in the *Daily Mirror*.



Carlsle: Rates used for striking miners

Mr Jack Straw (Blackburn, Lab), an opposition spokesman on environment, while local authorities' powers to spend for information purposes is closely regulated by legislation passed by the Conservatives in 1972, central Government has used the powers to spend taxpayers' money and spend it scandalously in support of these abolition proposals which are not yet through the House, in support of the Police and Criminal Evidence Bill and the Criminal Justice Bill.

Mr Baker: The provision about spending on advertising by Government is well known and has been observed by successive Governments. We have acted within the conventions which successive Governments have followed.

Councils told they have little time left

RATE CAPPING

Time is running out for local authorities intending to object to the Government's rate capping plans, Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, said during Commons questions.

The timetable required that the orders setting out the rate and the cap levels be laid shortly, he said, and he urged any local authority contemplating making an application for higher limits to do so quickly.

No such applications had yet been received and although they must be made individually, he was prepared to meet delegation from all the rate-capped local authorities.

Dr John Cunningham, chief Opposition spokesman on the environment, welcomed Mr Jenkin's willingness to meet the authorities and asked him not to hold rigidly to the date of January 15 as two of the three weeks which had elapsed since his statement had been taken up by the holiday period.

He went on: Will he accept that his refusal to spell out the principles on which he has exercised his discretion under the Rates Act in fixing the rates for authorities will inhibit the negotiations he says he is willing to engage in?

Mr Jenkin: My readiness to meet a delegation cannot of course constitute on their part an application for a revision of the rate or precept limit. That can only be made individually by each authority.

We have to proceed strictly by the legislation and only if there is negotiation about the limit imposed by an application by an individual authority, would it be appropriate for me to become involved in the question of spelling out the assumptions I have made.

If any authority wishes to object to the rate limit they must do so swiftly and individually and enter upon discussions because we will have to make these orders pretty soon.

Mr Wallace said they would welcome the appointment of a minister to coordinate the policies of young people. The Bill would lower the voting age and the age of candidature, give young people representation on various local committees including police authorities and would provide for elected forums for young people to express their many concerns.

Michelin jobs

Mr Jack Ashley (Stoke on Trent, South, Lab) failed in an attempt to have an emergency debate in the Commons on the loss of more than 2,400 jobs at the French-owned Michelin tyre company in its constituency.

He argued that the knock-on effect would lead to 4,000 workers facing the prospect of long-term unemployment. A debate was needed, he said, to see how the Government could aid manufacturing companies such as Michelin which were being crushed by foreign competition.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Milk (Cessation of Production) Bill, second reading. Debate on EEC fisheries.

Rate advice to councils

Merit in restoring accountability of councils to local ratepayers

RATE SUPPORT

There was general recognition, particularly by many members of the Association of County Councils, that there was merit in restoring accountability to local ratepayers as a basis for grant distribution.

There have been criticisms from other authorities and associations and no doubt we shall have an opportunity to debate this shortly.

Mr John Taylor (Solihull, C): One of this Government's most loyal local authorities is Solihull which for its good stewardship has been penalized by £2 million in rate support grant.

Mr Jenkin: The Minister for Local Government (Mr Kenneth Baker) has agreed to meet Mr Taylor and a delegation from Solihull.

We are constantly being pressed by the local authority associations for improvements and changes in the GRE system. When these changes are made, they inevitably result in differential effects on different local authorities. They are intended on that basis to be more accurate and reflect more properly the circumstances of individual authorities.

Mr David Wallis (Conwy South East, Lab) asked how Mr Jenkin could justify an allocation for Conwy which was only a third of what the city needed for council

housing. It would take nearly 35 years to repair and renovate private houses in the city and bring them up to any decent standard.

Mr Jenkin: We should ask ourselves how these properties got like that. It was not the tenants, who was it? The record of management of many



Straw: Shire counties losing £120m grant

local authorities of their council house estates is scandalous and I have no doubt that many councils could do a great deal better if they bucked to it.

Mr Robert Jones (West Hertfordshire, C) asked how Mr Jenkin

justified the application of a 25 per cent discount to London rateable values but not to Hertfordshire, Berkshire or Surrey which as a result lost rate support grant.

Mr Jenkin: The differentials in rateable values in the Greater London area and by large justify the particular variations to which he has drawn attention. It could not be said to apply to the counties outside London. That is the position which has obtained for a number of years and is built into the statement I made in December.

Mr Jack Straw, an Opposition spokesman on the environment: At least 18 Conservative-controlled shire counties have lost an aggregate £120 million of grant next year and this year. They include Essex, with a loss of £19 million, Hertfordshire, £14 million, and Surrey, with a loss of £11 million. Have those 18 authorities welcomed the rate support grant settlement?

Mr Jenkin: A number of points have been made to the Government about the settlement, but there is general recognition, particularly by many members of the ACC, that there is merit in restoring accountability to local ratepayers by reducing the share of expenditure met by central government.

It is that we are following the practice of previous governments.

Bill coming on more stringent storage

CHEMICALS

Legislation to strengthen control over the storage of hazardous chemicals is to be introduced as soon as possible, Mr Ian Gow, Minister for Housing and Construction, told the Commons at question time.

However, Mr Gow assured MPs that there was no cause for public disquiet over the storage of methyl isocyanate - the chemical concerned in the Bhopal disaster - at the Ciba-Gigley plant near Grimsby.

Officers of the Health and Safety Executive had visited the plant both before and after the Bhopal tragedy and were satisfied that its operations were being carried out with full and proper regard to safety.

Mr Gow said methyl isocyanate was not manufactured in the United Kingdom. At the Ciba-Gigley factory a maximum of eight tonnes of the chemical was stored in 40 drums containing 45 gallons each. At Bhopal, 45 tonnes was stored in a single container.

Very small quantities of the chemical are stored for research purposes at four other places in the UK. In all cases, storage was subject to strict control by the Health and Safety Executive.

Mr Kenneth Eastham (Manchester, Blackley, Lab), who raised the issue, said there were grave misgivings about drivers not complying with regulations and also about private hauliers contracted to pick up this chemical.

It is time (he said) for legislation whereby environmental health officers not only have some control over the placement of chemical storage but also have the power to order the routes these vehicles take.

Mr Gow: Safety is important in transit as well as in places where the chemical is stored permanently.

Mr Douglas Hogg (Grantham, C): Would Mr Gow undertake a wider inquiry and review of the relevant planning law and practice to ensure that where there are applications to manufacture and store a toxic material the safety of the local community is ensured?

Mr Gow: I can certainly give that undertaking. Following amendments last year in the General Development and Use Classes Orders and the publication of advice on planning control over hazardous development, we have consulted on proposals for strengthening these regulations and controls and legislation will be introduced as soon as possible.

Dr John Cunningham, chief Opposition spokesman on the environment: Although no-one wants to be alarmed, Mr Gow's statement is bound to cause some concern. Chemicals like methyl isocyanate, which are extremely toxic and dangerous, are stored here, particularly on the point of change from storage to transport, problems can arise.

Can Mr Gow really expect us to accept Government assurances when it has presided over a random from its own targets of almost a third in the factories inspected in every people responsible for monitoring in these important matters?

Mr Gow: There is no cause for public disquiet at all about this. Officers of the Health and Safety Executive visited the chemical plant near Grimsby both before the tragedy at Bhopal and after. (Laughter about a "Answer the question".)

The officers were satisfied that the operation at the plant is being carried out with full and proper regard to safety and strictly in accordance with the standards laid down.

Reassurance on redundancy

SHIPBUILDING

Nobody in receipt of redundancy benefit would be affected by the Bill.

By the end of 1986 the merchant building sector would have to have fought its way to a competitive position and found its way to reasonable stability. The need for and justification of the redundancy scheme would have passed. The Government had concluded it should only be extended this one last time to the end of 1986.

It was too early to predict the details of the successor scheme, but there was no need for concern that work forces would end up worse off.

It has always been inequitable that the scheme was available to the public but not the private sector, but extending it to the private sector was the wrong solution. That would be expensive and bureaucratic and wrong in principle.

Mr John Smith, chief Opposition spokesman on trade and industry, asked, if the successor redundancy scheme had yet to be negotiated, how could the minister say that workers would be no worse off? It might be that the negotiated new scheme would be considerably worse.

Shipyard workers might be tempted to apply for redundancy before privatisation of their yard in order to claim their rights under an existing scheme, even if they did not actually want redundancy, rather than risk getting no compensation at all after privatisation.

In this way the workforce would be reduced as the new private sector owners could take over a smaller industry and make large profits with no social obligation while the taxpayer footed the bill.

The Bill was therefore an extremely devious proposal. It was an odd state of affairs that some people were compensated in the past for the loss of their rights when they left British Shipbuilders while those staying after 1986 would lose rights for which they would get no compensation.

The Government should end the folly of privatisation and establish a national maritime strategy. Britain would be left with a shipyard building capability dependent on the Ministry of Defence contracts while the merchant shipbuilding industry, without any subsidy from the profitable section, might be diminished beyond recognition. That was ludicrous folly.

Miners' aid

The Speaker (Mr Bernard Weatherill) rejected a request by Mr Tony Benn (Chesham, Lab) for an emergency debate on the decision of the British Electricity Board to demand information from the Norwegian National Union of General Workers about financial support for the National Union of Mineworkers.

Mr Benn said this decision was a desperate move to get a desperate action on top of his failure to get a return to work of miners, the possibility of a rail strike and the threatened interruption of fuel supplies.

Gow resists pressure for more spending

INFRASTRUCTURE

The best prospect for a prosperous construction industry, were a secure and soundly-based economy such as has been described by Mr Ian Gow, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Government was not going to revert to the policies of the Labour Party when in power, of borrowing where they dared not tax and printing what they could not borrow.

Mr Ian Gow, Minister for Housing and Construction, said during Commons questions.

Asked what action he proposed to take in response to the National Economic Development Office report on the state of the national infrastructure of roads, housing and the water and sewerage systems, Mr Gow said Mr Patrick Jenkin, the Secretary of State, would be discussing the report at a meeting of the National Economic Develop-

ment Council later in the day at which Mr Lawson would be in the chair.

Mr William Hamilton (Central Fife, Lab): Since this report is of crucial importance to every member of our community, being a devastating criticism of the Government's current policy and in view of the fact that this independent policy review institution in the country is now asserting that public investment is the best and most effective way of reducing unemployment, will the Government not now accept this verdict of the generosity of the public, or is he going to wait until there are five million or six million on the dole before he sees the error of his ways?

Mr Gow: The best and most effective way of reducing unemployment in the United Kingdom is by pursuing policies which result in honest money and sound finance and by creating an economy in which there is low inflation and high

investment. It is precisely that which is occurring.

Mr Robert McIndrie (Brenwood and Ongar, C): Has he seen the editorial in this morning's *Financial Times* under the heading "Hard Facts on the Infrastructure"? It says a debt burden would be a bad thing for the future generation but too would be a crumbling infrastructure?

Leaving aside the benefits to the relief of unemployment which might flow from greater investment in the infrastructure, purely in terms of the infrastructure itself there is a strong argument for investment in the near future.

Mr Gow: I agree it is important there should be a proper level of investment in the infrastructure. For that reason, expenditure, for example, in the water industry, is going to rise from £680 million this year to £769 million next year, rising as planned to £870 million in 1987-88.

On roads, expenditure is planned to increase from £806 million to £824 million next year and in 1988-89 to £870 million. So there is progressive increasing investment in the areas he has described.

Mr Jeffrey Rooker, an Opposition spokesman on the environment: Does he not accept that failure to get public investment back to the level of 1976 is itself holding up further private investment? What is the reply to that moderate body the Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors who say they are becoming increasingly fed up with the current propaganda exercise waged by the Government to discredit the case for increasing expenditure on the infrastructure?

Mr Gow: The best prospects for the construction industry to prosper are those which have been described by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, namely the securing of a soundly based economy.

Talks vital before US bases close, Healey tells party

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

Mr Denis Healey, Labour's foreign affairs spokesman, suggested yesterday that Mr Neil Kinnock had accepted a heavy qualification to party policy on unilateral nuclear disarmament.

In a Fabian tract, Mr Healey repeated the warning delivered at Blackpool in October when he said that it would be foolhardy to expel American nuclear forces from Britain - apart from cruise missiles - without prior negotiation and agreement.

He said again that such a move might provoke a reaction that might make it more difficult to achieve the non-nuclear NATO strategy which was Labour's objective.

He wrote: "To expel American bases from Britain without prior consultation in the first days of a Labour government would create a serious danger that America would reduce her conventional contribution to NATO."

"It would be equally dangerous if the American response was simply to move nuclear bases from Britain to Western Germany, where they would appear very much more provocative to the Soviet Union than they are in Britain."

Labour's policy statement would be taken "to ensure that the US Government removes its nuclear weapons and nuclear

delivery systems from British territory and British territorial waters."

But Mr Healey said yesterday that he had been heartened to hear Mr Robin Cook, another front bench and "a passionate and intellectual supporter of CND", say subsequently that there would be negotiation about American bases "and I've heard that said often since."

He also said: "I've discussed this with Neil. I've no reason to believe he disagrees with what I have said or what Robin Cook has said."

Asked whether the Labour conference was likely to accept such a strong qualification to its unilateral stance, Mr Healey said: "I think the Labour Party is increasingly now getting down to the nitty gritty of defence in the real world."

He thinks, especially now that the Russians and Americans are getting to grips with realities and the argument inside NATO about having a conventional deterrent is becoming much more widespread. I am confident that the party will recognize that these problems of peace and war, life and death, if you like, require the same careful analysis as any other problems of equal magnitude.

Labour and a World Society (Fabian Tract 501; £1.50).

County fire engines in 49 crashes

So many fire engines in Staffordshire are involved in crashes that Mr Peter Reid the county's chief fire officer, has called for his men to be sent on special driving courses.

During the past year 49 vehicles were involved in crashes. Three were written off at a cost of £146,000.

Mr Reid told yesterday's Staffordshire fire and public protection committee: "I have become concerned lately that the training being given to brigade drivers does not appear to be resulting in the consistently high quality of driving that is necessary in an emergency service."

He described the 49 crashes last year and 49 the previous year as "unacceptably high".

The committee agreed to appoint an extra sub-officer to start a programme of refresher training for drivers.

Driving ban on Phil Parkes

West Ham goalkeeper Phil Parkes, of East Ham Gardens, Wokingham, Berkshire, was banned from driving for a year and fined £250 at Bow Street Magistrates' Court, London yesterday.

Parkes, aged 34, admitted driving with excess alcohol in Bridge Street, London. He was arrested after the team's Christmas party on December 12.

Bird hazard to be cleared

The Royal Society for Protection of Birds has arranged to clear plastic fish netting from gannets' nests on the 300ft chalk cliffs at Bampton, near Bridlington, Humberside.

One of the seabirds have died because the netting, used as nest-building material in mistake for seaweed, becomes entangled around their legs.



Mrs MacDermott with her award yesterday (Photograph: John Manning).

£250 award for aerospace engineer

Mrs Barbara MacDermott, aged 24, an engineer with British Aerospace in Hatfield, Hertfordshire, yesterday won the 1984 Girl Technician Engineer of the Year Award.

The award, sponsored by The Caroline Haslett Memorial

Trust and The Institution of Electrical and Electronics Incorporated Engineers, is meant to focus attention on electrical/electronics engineering as a profession for women and on those whose progress has been worth noting. The winner receives £250 and an inscribed rose bowl.

The runner-up in the nationwide competition was Mrs Karen Andrews, aged 23, a hardware development engineer with GEC Telecommunications in Coventry. She received £100.

Heart case lorry driver was 'menace' on roads

A coroner has called for regular medical checks on lorry drivers after hearing how a man with severe heart disease was allowed to continue driving.

At an inquest in Preston, Mr Thomas Hornby, aged 49, who had already suffered a heart attack, was described by Mr Howard McCann, the coroner, as a "menace" on the roads.

Mr Hornby, of Bank Place,

Preston, Lancashire, died minutes after falling ill while driving along a main road. He had renewed his licence every three years answering "no" to the question: "Do you suffer from severe heart disease?"

Mr McCann, recording a verdict of death by natural causes, said: "The criticism is of the system. There ought to be some sort of regular medical check-ups rather than relying on forms."

Officer accused of biting ear

Second Lieutenant Dewi Hitchcock, aged 21, who is serving in the First Battalion The Royal Regiment of Wales and is also an undergraduate at Pembroke College, Cambridge, was yesterday committed for trial by Cambridge magistrates, accused of biting off a man's ear.

He is charged with causing grievous bodily harm. He is also charged with assaulting Marc Feigen in Cambridge on October 8.

University teaching of art history 'dead end'

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

University teaching of art history is so inadequate, a group of experts on painting claims that it proposes to establish a new postgraduate course in Rome where students will be able to study restoration, damaged works and forgeries.

The experts argue that the study of art history in British universities has become a dead end. Students' minds are filled

with theory and criticism, Mr Nigel McGilchrist, director of the Anglo-Italian Institute in Rome says.

"They study from reproductions and have hardly any knowledge of the objects themselves," he says. "Few of them have ever learnt really to examine or to understand in depth the nature of the works of art they study."

Knife attack doctor was robbed

The Iraqi doctor repeatedly stabbed on a motorway had been robbed of £200 the police disclosed yesterday.

Dr Enad Hamoudi was found early on Tuesday on the M4 near Reading, Berkshire, bound and gagged and with 27 stab wounds.

Det Supt David Freedland said robbery appeared to be the only motive for the attack by two men. He was keeping an open mind on the identity of the doctor, an opponent of Ayatollah Khomeini, was attacked because of protest letters he had written to newspapers in the Bristol area.

The doctor had left his lodgings in a Bristol hotel in the early hours to drive to London to meet his wife. The police did not know whether the men had followed him from Bristol or from a service station where he had stopped briefly.

Mr Freedland said the doctor was first robbed as he sat in the car, which had been forced to stop, and then stabbed, first in the driver's seat and again when he tried to get out of the car. As he lay bleeding beside the motorway he was bound and gagged.

He added that Dr Hamoudi's life was in no danger.

The Falasha rescue

Refugee anger highlights Israel's dilemma

From Christopher Walker
Jerusalem

The front page of *Hadashot*, Israel's leading tabloid, was dominated yesterday by a big photograph of two defiant-looking Falasha youths from Ethiopia brandishing a banner stating poignantly: "We are Jews like you."

The slogan, one of many devised for the first protest demonstration by the recently arrived Ethiopian immigrants, highlighted the multi-million pound problem facing Israel in absorbing the descendants of what is claimed as one of the 10 tribes lost after the Assyrian conquest in 722BC.

The authorities are determined to avoid the mistakes made during earlier influxes of backward Jews from North Africa, who were despatched unceremoniously to remote towns where their resentment against the white Ashkenazi establishment still simmers today.

About 200 of the recent arrivals from drought-stricken Africa took part in the protest outside the Knesset, after a march from the headquarters of the Jewish Agency, the body chiefly involved in the Falasha operation.

Hundreds of the refugees are separated from their families, still stranded after the temporary suspension of Operation Moses.

The protesters, whose march was organized by the increasingly militant Ethiopian Immigrants Association, made three basic demands: the punishment of those Israeli officials responsible for leaking news of their plight; a maximum effort to bring back the 12,500 Falashas still stranded; and the use of "veteran" Ethiopian Jews in the absorption programme.

Among the slogans, written in a mixture of English, Hebrew and Amharic, were ones requesting "partnership", not benevolence, and "publicity and honour" — not at our expense.



Poignant protest: The slogan at the Knesset demonstration that haunted Israeli newspaper readers yesterday.

Many demonstrators accused the Government of deliberately publicizing the plight to reduce its problems in coping with the sudden influx.

The new mood of discontent among the Falashas has been exacerbated by the demands of Israel's two chief rabbis that they take part in a symbolic immersion ceremony before being allowed to marry in Israel, seen as a slight on their right to an equal Jewish identity with all other Jews in the world.

"They regard themselves as 'complete Jews' and will not tolerate any procedure which questions this," said Dr Michael Cordinal, chairman of the International Committee for Ethiopian Jews which recently won an appeal in the High Court requiring the Interior Ministry to register the Falashas as Jews and no longer as converts to Judaism.

Because of the primitive background of those arriving in the airlift, the absorption

programme has to begin with routine instruction in the use of such 20th century marvels as flush toilets, electricity and gas. After a month, the new arrivals — 80 per cent of whom can neither read nor write — begin basic Hebrew lessons.

In addition to the many physical illnesses afflicting the Falashas, they have psychological problems caused by the rigours of their long march to the transit camps in Sudan, when they were frequently

attacked by bandits and rapists.

TEL AVIV: Ethiopia has accepted an offer of Israeli food and medicine for its famine victims despite the current controversy over the Falasha airlift, relief officials said yesterday (Reuters reports).

The consignment was valued at about \$250,000 (£219,000) donated by private individuals and companies during a Government-approved fund raising campaign.

Vietnam in barrage of border protests

Hanoi (AFP) — Vietnam yesterday accused Bangkok of fuelling tension on Thailand's borders with Cambodia and Laos.

At the same time, Thailand and its allies in the Association of South East Asian Nations (Asean) made separate protests against Vietnamese activity along the Thai-Cambodian border, where Vietnamese troops have overrun several Cambodian guerrilla bases in the past few days.

The Vietnamese Army daily *Nhan Dan* attacked Thailand's "military activities" in support of the Cambodian resistance and said Thailand's "aggression" against Laos "clearly demonstrates its collusion with the United States and Chinese expansionists".

On Tuesday the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry protested at recent incidents in a contested border area between Laos and Thailand. The ministry said Hanoi "categorically demands" that Thailand respect Laotian sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The ministry also criticized Thai assistance to Cambodian resistance movements fighting the Phnom Penh regime installed by Vietnam after its invasion of Cambodia in December, 1978.

Vietnamese troops launched a dry-season offensive in mid-November against guerrilla bases in Cambodia near the Thai border. They have captured or destroyed several bases of one of the main resistance groups, the Khmer People's National Liberation Front.

Reports from Thailand yesterday said tension in the area was high after Vietnamese troops overran Ampil, the Front's headquarters in western Cambodia, the previous day.

General Arthi Kamlang-Ek, Thailand's armed forces chief, said Vietnamese troops had been ordered away from an area on the Thai side of the border. Thai tanks and troop reinforcements were seen on the road running along the border, while sporadic artillery fire could be heard coming from Ampil.

The Vietnam News Agency (VNA) yesterday said Hanoi had raised the border issue at the United Nations with Señor Javier Pérez de Cuellar, the Secretary-General. He was asked to distribute an official document a recent "authoritative" VNA dispatch rejecting Bangkok's accusations that Vietnamese troops had entered Thailand.

In Bangkok the Foreign Ministry said Thailand would not attend a UN-sponsored meeting, due to open in Hanoi today in protest at the Vietnamese action. The meeting was to discuss integrated development of the resources of the Mekong River, which flows through Thailand, Laos and Vietnam.

The Cambodian question has proved an obstacle to any attempted rapprochement between Asean members: Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, the Philippines, Indonesia and Brunei — and the three Communist Governments in Hanoi, Phnom Penh and Vietnam.

PEKING: China has rebuffed Vietnam's proposal for a cease fire along their common border during the coming spring festival (Mary Lee writes).

Mr Ma Yuzhen, a Foreign Ministry spokesman, said Vietnam's offer was "a smoke-screen to cover up their continuous provocation along the Sino-Vietnamese border and their military action along the Thai-Cambodian border."

25 killed as blaze destroys French old people's home

From Diana Geddes, Paris

Twenty-five old people, most of them bedridden, died when a government-run old people's home in Grandvilliers, Picardy, was destroyed by fire early yesterday.

An official inquiry has been opened into the cause of the fire, which is believed to have started after a burst pipe caused a short circuit under the roof timbers of the 64-year-old brick building. The security system in the home had been overhauled only recently according to the management.

Nearly 100 firemen were on the scene within minutes of the outbreak of the blaze, discovered by one of the domestic staff at 1am. There was no panic and most of the 196 elderly inmates were led out to safety in the snow and freezing night air.

But the wing housing the most incapacitated "went up like a box of matches", according to an eye-witness. The roof and floor of the two-storey building collapsed, burying those sleeping there. The fire was brought under control in just over an hour, but it took another 14 hours to recover all the bodies from under the smouldering timber and charred debris.

Some of the survivors, many of them in a state of shock, were taken away by relatives, while others were given temporary accommodation in the town hall.

President Mitterrand, accompanied by three ministers, paid a flying visit to the scene early yesterday morning. After learning from the mayor about the circumstances of the disaster, M. Mitterrand spoke with some of the survivors, before flying back to Paris to preside over the normal weekly Cabinet meeting.

Another fire in Troyes, in the Ardennes, ravaged part of the oldest quarter of the town for more than five hours early yesterday destroying 14 houses, most of which were empty. There were no deaths or injury, although a woman of 105 was taken to hospital to be treated for shock.

Fourteen other people were evacuated soon after the fire broke out in a clothes shop in the Rue Urbain IV at 3 am. The cause of the fire is still unknown.

About 150 firemen were called out to fight the blaze, but they were greatly hampered by the extreme cold — 28°C (-18°F), which froze the water in the hoses and made their ladders unusable until they had been warmed with blow lamps.

In Champigny-sur-Marne, outside Paris, a woman was killed and 21 people injured when a violent explosion of unknown origin destroyed a three-storey building in a busy shopping street just after midnight yesterday.

A series of lesser explosions followed the initial one, as gas cylinders in a hardware shop on the ground floor of the building caught fire. The woman who died lived on the third floor.

A further 11 people were reported yesterday to have died from the cold, bringing the total of deaths directly caused by the cold to 36 in the past six days. Most of them were homeless.

President's grief: A grim-faced M. Mitterrand during his visit to Grandvilliers yesterday.

Cold spell brings chaos and death to Europe

Paris (Reuters) — Deaths connected with West Europe's worst cold snap for many years approached 100 yesterday, and there was chaos in ground and air transport throughout the continent.

Heavy snow and rainfall over the past week have paralysed rail, road and canal traffic throughout Europe, and airports have closed down as far south as Rome.

In Spain, 21 cold-related deaths have been reported. Some were vagrants who froze to death in the streets and 12 were caused by accidents attributed to the snow and cold.

Switzerland, where an unemployed man froze to death in an abandoned stable, reported the lowest temperature.

In Italy, the worst-hit regions were round Florence and Bologna, where four people were reported to have died.

DELHI: The death toll in two weeks of bitterly cold weather in northern and eastern India has risen to 294 (Reuters reports).

WELLINGTON: Antarctica was enjoying a "heat-wave" yesterday, as 55 delegates from 28 countries gathered on Bear-dmore Glacier to debate the future of the continent (Reuters reports). The noon temperature was zero deg C (32°F).

Capitalizing on the Soviet system

Georgia's mountain men reach the top

By Richard Owen

Just outside Tbilisi, on the famous Georgian military highway to the Caucasus, stands a gigantic memorial in the form of a knot symbolizing Russian-Georgian friendship. The 20th anniversary of the treaty of Georgievsk between the two nations fell in 1983, and although a few Georgian nationalists were arrested for protesting against the treaty, most accepted it.

A fiery, black-eyed mountain race, the Georgians prefer not to speak Russian if they can avoid it, but like the Armenians have concluded over the centuries that the Russians are preferable to the Turks or Persians.

The remarkable thing, one local resident said "is that we have made the Soviet system work for us." The five million Georgians would no doubt be delighted if Moscow adopted the Chinese principle of "one country, two systems", but since the introduction of Hong Kong-style enclaves is unlikely, to say the least, the Georgians have settled for a system in which private enterprise flourishes both legally and illegally.

Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, brought in as Georgian party leader 12 years ago to clean up the republic, is still struggling with deeply ingrained corruption. Last month several officials in charge of fruit and vegetable production were sacked for large-scale embezzlement. Georgia produces much of the Soviet Union's fruit, vegetables and wine, but some of it falls off the back of state lorries and ends up in the hands

of private traders, who sell it for high prices in Moscow, where such goods are scarce.

Mr Shevardnadze has also called for a drive against the growing use of drugs in Georgia, mainly hashish and opium.

But the Georgians have been remarkably adept at taking advantage of politically acceptable economic experiments as well as underground corruption. The experiments which President Andropov brought into the forefront of economic policy, and which President Chernenko is continuing (though less enthusiastically), had their origins at Abkhaz, in western Georgia.

It was here that factory managers were first told that while still constructed by the overall framework of the five-year plan, they could have a degree of local autonomy, ploughing back or distributing profits, offer material incentives to their workers and even make their own production and operational decisions without constant reference to Moscow. The scheme has been extended to other Georgian towns, most notably the port of Poti on the Black Sea, and Georgian officials speak of its success with pride.

In agriculture Georgia has pioneered the idea of Rapos, an acronym which stands for Regional agrarian-industrial complex. Behind the ungainly vocabulary is an imaginative scheme which — as in industry — decentralizes decision-making by grouping together local farms with related food processing industries and giving the resulting amalgamation extensive local powers. Private plots have also been increased.

The result of the experiment — consciously based on Hungarian reforms — is that declining growth rates have been reversed, and so too has rural migration, an especially difficult problem in Georgia, where 87 per cent of the land is mountainous and difficult to cultivate. There has been a return to "abandoned hearths", was how one Tbilisi official put it.

The results are also reflected in living standards, which are higher than in Moscow. Cars throng the roads, the shops are relatively well stocked, with some good window displays (almost unknown in Russia itself).

At a restaurant at Mtskheta, the ancient Georgian capital and still its leading religious centre, the manager revealed that the enterprise has its own livestock, can distribute profits, has a turnover of 3,000 roubles a day and pays its staff twice the average industrial wage.

Like many other experiments, the Mtskheta restaurant has been running on these semi-private lines for just two years. Whether it is setting the pattern for the future, both in Georgia and in Russia, will depend on Mr Chernenko — or perhaps in the end on Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, the heir-apparent, who at 53 is a firm proponent of the Andropov era policies and leads the reform-minded younger generation in the Politburo.

Observers in both Tbilisi and in Moscow will be watching to see whether Mr Shevardnadze, at present only a candidate Politburo member, is promoted to full membership this year to inject a little of the Georgian experience into the Kremlin.

Mr Shevardnadze: Kremlin may use his experience.

Fruit is expensive (I paid £9 for 4 lb of pears and a bar of chocolate), but available, even in winter. The wine does not compare with European vintages, but there are some robust varieties of red, including *kindsmarail*, a semi-sweet reputed to have been Stalin's favourite.

Tbilisi itself is a dusty, rust-coloured town, with factory

chimneys belching smoke near the centre. There are pockets of distinctive charm, including the sixteenth-century churches with their round towers and conical metallic roofs.

Somewhat the Georgians manage to rise above their inefficiencies and absurdities. They have a national self-confidence which stretches back to the twelfth century and the reign of Queen Tanara. Georgia's golden age, and guides at the Art Museum argue seriously that Asia Minor enjoyed its renaissance long before Western Europe, whereas Russia never had a renaissance at all and remained backward.

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Mr Shevardnadze: Kremlin may use his experience.

Fruit is expensive (I paid £9 for 4 lb of pears and a bar of chocolate), but available, even in winter. The wine does not compare with European vintages, but there are some robust varieties of red, including *kindsmarail*, a semi-sweet reputed to have been Stalin's favourite.

Tbilisi itself is a dusty, rust-coloured town, with factory

chimneys belching smoke near the centre. There are pockets of distinctive charm, including the sixteenth-century churches with their round towers and conical metallic roofs.

Somewhat the Georgians manage to rise above their inefficiencies and absurdities. They have a national self-confidence which stretches back to the twelfth century and the reign of Queen Tanara. Georgia's golden age, and guides at the Art Museum argue seriously that Asia Minor enjoyed its renaissance long before Western Europe, whereas Russia never had a renaissance at all and remained backward.

At a restaurant at Mtskheta, the ancient Georgian capital and still its leading religious centre, the manager revealed that the enterprise has its own livestock, can distribute profits, has a turnover of 3,000 roubles a day and pays its staff twice the average industrial wage.

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Washington unlikely to intervene directly, Kinnock tells Nicaragua

From Alan Tomlinson, Managua

Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour Party leader, said here that he does not believe the United States will resort to the direct use of force in its dealings with the Sandinista Government in Nicaragua.

Mr Kinnock, who arrived in Managua on Tuesday evening for a four-day visit, said he believed that Mr George Shultz, the US Secretary of State, had succeeded since his own visit to Nicaragua last June in quietening the "gun-hungry elements" of the right who favoured direct intervention.

He could see no reason for the Research Administration going to the trouble of holding a continuing series of talks with the Sandinistas in Mexico unless it was serious about trying to reach a negotiated accommodation with them. Mr Reagan would fail, he thought, in his expected effort to convince Congress to renew the aid it cut off last summer to the anti-Sandinista Contras, and Mr Kinnock pointed with

interest to signs that Honduras is prepared to expel Contra leaders from its territory.

Mr Kinnock said he hoped his own visit would help to point up the failure of Mrs Thatcher's Government to adopt a constructive and independent role in Third World affairs, where Britain's moral influence might be expected to have some effect.

The Prime Minister had "fallen in behind the United States" on Third World issues, despite the failure of Mr Reagan to consult the British Government, he said.

The Labour leader's visit coincides with the inauguration today of Señor Daniel Ortega as Nicaragua's first post-revolutionary president.

He is meeting Señor Ortega and other government leaders, as well as prominent members of the opposition and the Roman Catholic Church. The visit may also include a trip to areas affected by the war with the Contras.

Señor Ortega has announced a Cabinet with few new faces, although some of its members find themselves in fresh jobs. He has restructured the Government in a manner which, at first glance, appears to place himself in firmer control of the decision-making process.

The most important change is the creation of a National Planning Council, with Señor Ortega at its head, and a Ministry of the Presidency. The role of the former Planning Ministry is reduced to an advisory one, while the former Planning Minister, Señor Henry Ruiz, occupies a new post as Minister for Overseas Co-operation.

Four priests whose presence in ministerial jobs has caused friction with the Vatican remain in their posts despite speculation that one or more of them might stand down to avoid further problems. Speculation that government jobs might be offered to opposition parties which contested the November elections has also proved unfounded.

● MEXICO CITY: Mr Kinnock said here that the United States was using the wrong approach to Central America (Bruno Lopez writes).

At a press conference shortly before concluding his brief visit to Mexico on route to Managua, he also referred to disarmament and accused the British Government of artificially fuelling the coal miners' strike.

After meeting Mexico's Foreign Minister, Señor Ricardo Balero, to discuss the situation in Central America, Mr Kinnock said he thought Washington was making a mistake by regarding the regional turmoil as part of the East-West conflict.

"If the Americans really want a dependable stability they should spend a fraction of what they spend on military aid in expenditures that could foster economic development, the best guarantee of stability."



Our men in Managua: Mr Kinnock chatting with the British envoy to Costa Rica and Nicaragua, Mr Peter Summerscale.

Reagan seeks \$14m for Contras

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

The Reagan Administration plans to confront Congress with another request for funds for rebels fighting the leftist Sandinista Government of Nicaragua. In just three years - until Congress cut off the funds last May - American money helped turn a 500-strong ragtag band into an estimated guerrilla force of 14,000 well-armed men.

The end of official American money has not apparently affected the rebels' ability to inflict grave damage on the Nicaraguan economy. With obvious official encouragement, a great deal of private US money continues to reach the guerrillas through the Miami network.

President Reagan is expected to seek \$14 million for the "Contras", a small sum compared to the \$75 million that flowed quietly to the rebels from 1981. More US naval and Army manoeuvres are being planned in the region to intimidate the Sandinistas.

President Reagan will have an influential new ally when he tackles Congress - Señor Cruz, leader of the right-wing opposition to Nicaragua's Government. He has changed his position and decided to endorse US funding for the guerrillas.

The Administration regards guerrilla warfare as central to its policy of belligerence towards Nicaragua. It will use Señor Cruz to the full in its campaign for resumed funding; he has already said he is willing to testify before Congress if asked to do so.

Señor Cruz, a former president of the Central Bank of Nicaragua and former member of the Sandinista Government, previously said that the Contras had provided the Sandinistas with an excuse to tighten domestic repression.

He came to Washington with Señor Pedro Joaquín Chamorro, former editor of *La Prensa*, the sole opposition newspaper in Nicaragua, to call for funding for the rebels. *La Prensa* is constantly harassed and heavily censored. "One of the wonders of the revolution is that there is still a newspaper publishing. They don't see that 50 per cent of what we want to publish is censored," Señor Chamorro said.

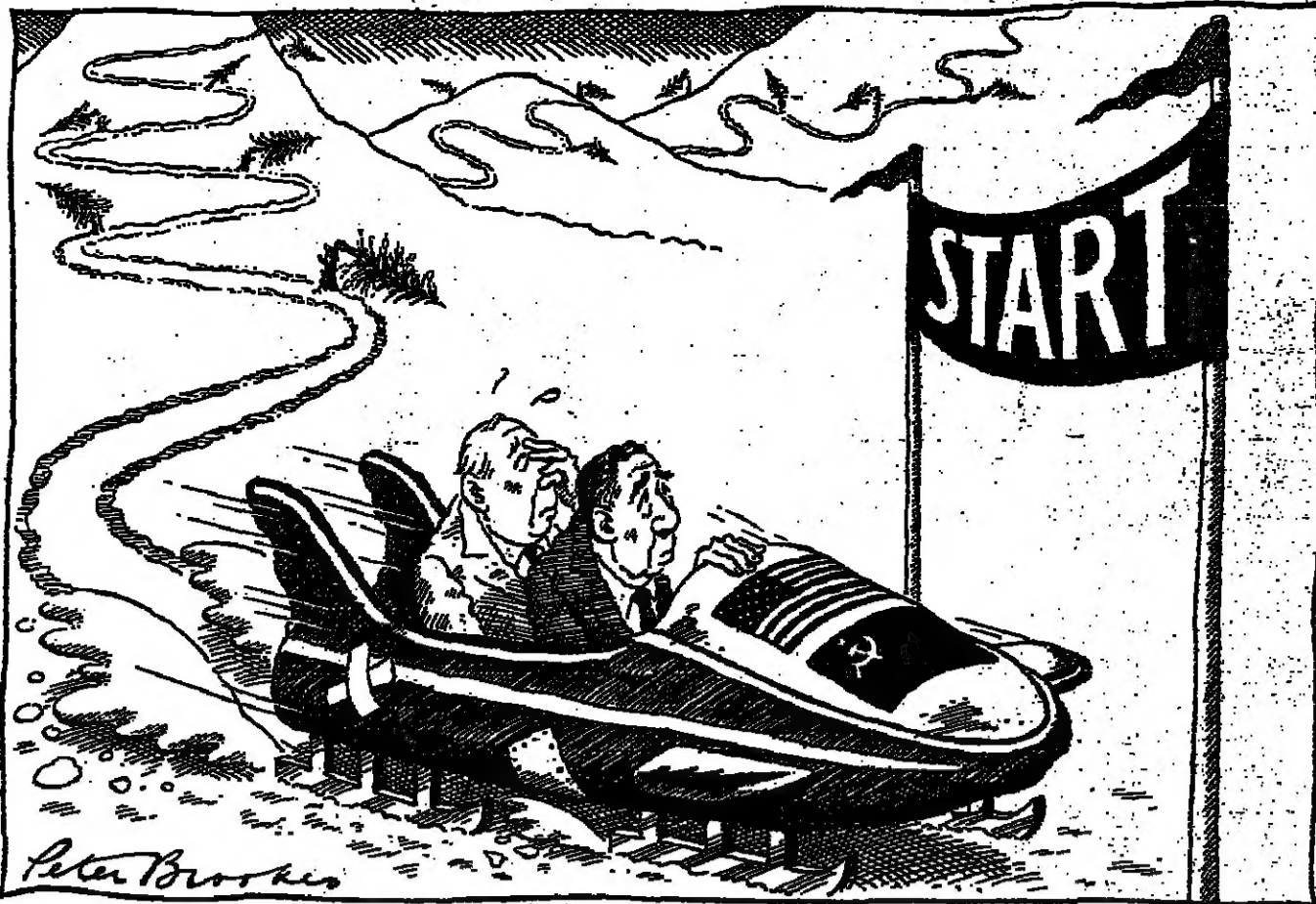
Last month he went into voluntary exile in Costa Rica so he could protest about increasingly repressive censorship and travel restrictions. He said that outboard Nicaraguans are

required to pay twice for their tickets, once in dollars and once in Nicaraguan currency. Most Nicaraguans could not afford to leave.

Although official American funds have been cut off, there is no serious doubt that the Central Intelligence Agency keeps in close contact with the Contras, who have representatives permanently in Miami. Some CIA funding is probably still flowing to the rebels.

Intelligence reports have confirmed a source by the Associated Press that helicopters flown by CIA employees clashed with Nicaraguan Government troops twice last year while supporting CIA-trained rebels who were under fire in small boats off the Nicaraguan coast.

Reports that the US-backed rebels continued atrocities against Nicaraguan civilians have hardened the mood of many Congressmen against a resumption of aid. Earlier this week the Senate select committee on intelligence said the CIA exercised "inadequate supervision and management" of its covert war against Nicaragua, a failure that contributed to the ending of funds.



Polish policeman uses court for anti-Church diatribe

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

The Polish secret police agent, Grzegorz Piotrowski, who is on trial for his role in the murder of Father Jerzy Popieluszko, yesterday used the courtroom to mount an astonishing attack on the political activities of the Roman Catholic Church, accusing one bishop of collaborating with the Nazis and others of helping to run the Solidarity underground.

Mr Piotrowski, one of four defendants, spoke again with confidence, declaring: "The verdict won't touch me because on October 19 [the day Father Popieluszko was kidnapped and murdered] I died as a social creature, a death that is sometimes worse than actual physical death... My children will have to renounce their name, I have no reason to carry on living."

The 33-year-old former captain, who was a section head in the police unit monitoring priests, soon went onto the offensive. When Judge Artur Kujawa implicitly bolstered the agent's diatribe against the Church by reading fragments of an investigation incriminating Father Popieluszko, a fierce dispute broke out. Lawyers from the Popieluszko family claimed that it was unfair to read allegations which the priest had never been given a chance to refute.

"I simply want to show what emotional meaning the priest may have had for the accused," said the judge who read with dramatic emphasis, charges that Father Popieluszko had stored ammunition and explosives in his flat and written underground leaflets. The charges were later dropped under an amnesty for political prisoners in July, 1984.

None the less, Solidarity's fears that the trial of the four secret police officers might turn into a trial of Father Popieluszko seemed to take concrete form.

Mr Piotrowski, reading from

notes but often scanning the courtroom with the gaze of a politician, said police had material showing that Bishop Ignacy Tokarczuk, a prominent champion of human rights, had collaborated with the Gestapo during the war; a Wrocław bishop had hidden money for Solidarity; and the clergy often behaved in a disloyal way.

"I have material which shows that Popieluszko had close contacts with a certain lady," said the officer, who is regarded as ringleader of the kidnap. His two subordinates, Lieutenants Leszek Pekala and Waldemar Chmielewski, also facing murder charges, have already testified and passed much of the blame on to the captain. Mr Piotrowski, in turn, has been trying to shed some of the responsibility on the fourth defendant, Colonel Adam Pietruszka, charged with complicity.

"If it had not been for Pietruszka's inspiration I would never have got involved in this kind of operation," Mr Piotrowski said.

An elaborate game of musical chairs is being played in the courtroom. The two lieutenants claim they were obeying orders and took no part in the beatings. One says the other played a more active role and vice-versa.

Mr Piotrowski admits to some beatings but points out that the official cause of death was suffocation - and it was Lieutenant Pekala who gagged the priest. Much depends on the exact moment of death and ability of the prosecution, due to cross-examine the Mr Piotrowski today, to make the captain "remember" the events of the last hour of the priest's life.

Mr Piotrowski says a state of shock has banished any memory of the end of the kidnap, before the priest was dropped into Wrocław reservoir.

Letter from Warsaw, back page



Mr Piotrowski: 'I have no reason to carry on living.'

Turkish MPs to decide ex-minister's fate

From Rasit Gurdilek, Ankara

The Turkish Parliament will debate today a motion tabled by 40 MPs of the ruling Motherland Party which could result in Mr Ismail Ozdaglar, who resigned as Minister of State at the weekend, being tried by the Supreme Court on corruption charges.

The circumstances and motives for his apparent entrapment remain unclear. He is alleged to have sought and accepted substantial cash rewards for awarding contracts to a maritime company for the transport of oil imported from Iran. It was officially disclosed that the owner of the company had denounced the minister to the Government, producing incriminating evidence.

A tape-recorded conversation between Mr Ozdaglar and the shipping magnate, the text of which was published in the press yesterday, contained references to 25 million Turkish lire (\$49,000) agreed to be "half the due sum." But the public was puzzled by the silence of the

company - which has ordered five tankers from British shipyards - after earlier statements denying giving bribes or meeting Mr Ozdaglar. The Justice Minister, Mr Necati Eldem, however, revealed that the tape had been given by the company to a close aide of Mr Turgut Ozal, the Prime Minister.

For his part, Mr Ozdaglar has protested his innocence at a brief and fearful press conference, attributing his incoherence to shock and the effect of sedatives. He claimed to be a victim of a sinister plot whose aims, he said, he could not fathom.

Despite the confidence of Mr Ozal that the Government would emerge strengthened from the affair, opposition spokesmen have made clear that the matter would be pursued to the end, "since it has come less than three months after a major customs scandal which caused the replacement of the Ministers of Finance and Interior."

£1m French crash award

Paris - Just over £1 million has been awarded to the families of the 44 French children who died on the infamous A6 motorway near Beaune in July, 1982, in France's worst road accident. Nine adults also died in the crash (Diana Geddes writes).

The civil court examining the families' compensation claim against the bus company involved has decided that each parent should receive 100,000 francs (about £9,000) for each child lost, each sibling of the deceased 40,000 francs, and each grandparent 20,000 francs.

Only six left in Prague embassy

From Our Own Correspondent, Bonn

All but six of the East German refugees in the West German Embassy in Prague have now returned to East Germany, leaving only six out of an original total of 150 would-be emigrants to the West.

West German officials are hoping those remaining will also go soon, as the East Germans have made it clear they will not consider emigration applications by any of those who returned home until every one had left the embassy building. Unconfirmed reports also say that all the East Germans in the Budapest embassy have also gone, and that seven more refugees have left the Warsaw embassy.

Meanwhile, Herr Erich Honnecker, the East German leader, has given clear signals to Bonn that, despite the cancellation last year of his visit here, he is still interested in improving relations. In a long talk with Herr Hans Otto Bräutigam, head of the West German Mission in East Berlin, Herr Honnecker told him at a new year reception that "trip-wires in mutual relations" should be removed.

Some commentators, however, insist that Herr Honnecker is not going to be planned down to visiting Bonn this year.

Kennedy visits wife of Mandela

From Our Correspondent Johannesburg

Senator Edward Kennedy, six members of his family, and more than 100 journalists yesterday visited Mrs Winnie Mandela, the wife of Nelson Mandela, imprisoned leader of the African National Congress, defying the terms of her banning order.

Under the banning order imposed on her, she is not allowed to attend any gathering of more than two people. Senator Kennedy and his entourage spent an hour with Mrs Mandela at her home in Brandfontein, an isolated black township 50 miles from Bloemfontein, provincial capital of Orange Free State.

A request by Senator Kennedy to meet Mr Mandela, who is serving the 21st year of a life sentence in a South African prison, was turned down yesterday by the South African Government.

"A visit by Senator Kennedy, in his capacity as a foreign politician, to a prisoner who is serving a sentence for crimes against the security of the state, does not qualify," Mr Kobie Coetsee, the Minister of Justice, said in a statement.

It remains to be seen whether Mrs Mandela will be charged, as a result of the Kennedy visit, with breaking the terms of her banning order.

She was banished to Brandfontein in 1977 after the Soweto riots and has been allowed off officially only on rare prison visits to her husband and for medical treatment in Johannesburg.

The Kennedys planned originally to make maximum political capital out of the meeting with Mrs Mandela by seeing her one by one. Instead the whole Kennedy clan arrived on Mrs Mandela's tiny front lawn, closely attended by at least eight television crews, more than a score of photographers, and a host of reporters.

There was an exchange of embraces between the Kennedys, Mrs Mandela, her daughter Zizi, her daughter's husband, Prince Thumbumuzi of Swaziland.

The media were shooshed off the lawn and the senator and Mrs Mandela disappeared into her tiny home for half an hour's private conversation.

When they emerged, Mrs Kathleen Kennedy Townsend presented Mrs Mandela with a bronze bust of her late father, Senator Robert Kennedy, while the rest of the Kennedy clan spent a further 10 minutes defying South African law and talking to the Mandelas. Then the Kennedy party departed.

Last night, Senator Kennedy dined in Durban with the Most Rev Denis Hurley, Roman Catholic Archbishop of Durban, who as president of the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference has recently issued a report urging the police and the Army of brutality in quelling black township riots.



Mrs Mandela: Visit could lead to charges

Seamen end strike at French ferry ports

Calais (Reuters) - French seamen yesterday ended their 10-day ferry dispute and agreed to the resumption of cross-channel services.

The strikers' decision came after concessions by French railways (SNCF), the joint owners. It suspended its plan immediately to halt passenger services on the ferry St Germain, the cause of the dispute, from Dunkirk to Dover.

Vigilante is freed on bail

New York (AP) - The District Attorney's office has won more time to prepare its case against Bernhard Goetz, the subway vigilante accused of shooting four menacing teenagers.

A judge in the criminal court was told: "Additional evidence is being brought before us." Mr Goetz was released yesterday after posting bail of \$50,000. An official said he believed it was Mr Goetz's own money.

Secrets seller

Washington (Reuters) - A Marine private, Robert Cordrey, is serving 12 years imprisonment for trying to sell US nuclear, biological and chemical warfare secrets to the Soviet bloc. The FBI said the sentence, imposed last August, was kept secret because of a continuing investigation.

Nazi check

Los Angeles (AP) - A magistrate decided here to appoint an independent psychiatrist to evaluate Oskender Arukovic, a former official of a Nazi-backed regime in Yugoslavia, whose return is being sought for trial of charges of complicity in 770,000 murders.

Kabul slight

Islamabad (Reuters) - The Soviet Union has apparently slighted Afghanistan, sending only a routine delegation to celebrations marking the 20th anniversary of Kabul's divided Communist Party. Western diplomats said.

Spoilt Romeo

Milan (Reuters) - The Italian film director, Franco Zeffirelli, has lost a lawsuit here against a television station which he said ruined the screening of his *Romeo and Juliet* by interrupting it 18 times with advertisements.

UK stopover

New York - Señor Pérez de Cuellar, the UN Secretary-General, will meet Mrs Thatcher in Britain later this month en route to six countries in south-east Asia and the Pacific. Cyprus is expected to be discussed.

Escape date

Chalmers, Louisiana (Reuters) - Robert Angulo, an armed robber with a history of jail break-outs, escaped again after a deputy sheriff took him and another prisoner to a motel for a date with two women as a reward for turning informer.

Shuttle delay

Washington (Reuters) - The first launch of the space shuttle Discovery from the US West Coast had been delayed until January 29, 1986, because of tile repair problems with another shuttle.

Pele's goal

Rio de Janeiro (AP) - Pele, the retired football star, told slum children in a televised meeting here that he is preparing to run for President of Brazil and that he plans to "play to win".

Biting nun

Montreal (Reuters) - A police sergeant told a court he was bitten by a nun belonging to the Apostles of Infinite Love sect when he tried to arrest her for soliciting donations without a permit.

Gulf victim

Seoul (Reuters) - A South Korean seaman was killed and another was wounded when the freighter Hanlim Mariner was hit by an Iraqi missile in the Gulf, the owners said.

Paper stopped

Paris (Reuters) - Printworkers at *Le Monde* will stage a 24-hour strike today in protest at the shareholders' failure to choose a new managing director.

Family witness

Jackson, Georgia (Reuters) - Roosevelt Green, a 28-year-old murderer and rapist, was executed in the electric chair while his mother watched as a witness.

School for sex

Peking (Reuters) - An evening school for newlyweds has opened in Peking giving classes on sex and family planning. The New China News Agency said.

Mercy plea

Hyderabad (Reuters) - Mr N. T. Rama Rao, Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh state, has asked a court here to pardon a man who tried to kill him.

Zambia shows off copper mine to Howe

Lusaka (Reuters) - Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, yesterday toured a mine in the Zambian copperbelt town of Chingola.

Zambia Consolidated Copper Mines has embarked on an ambitious export and diversification programme at Chingola, sponsored by the European Community and the World Bank. Sir Geoffrey arrived in Zambia from Zimbabwe on Tuesday on his three-nation African tour, and had talks with Mr Lameche Goma, the Zambian Foreign Minister.

After the Chingola visit the Foreign Secretary returned to Lusaka for a dinner given in his honour last night by Britain's High Commissioner to Zambia, Mr Kelvin White.

Sir Geoffrey will meet President Kaunda in Lusaka today. ● FOOD CRISIS: Famine relief operations in Zambia's Southern Province have been halted because of impassable roads and a fuel shortage. Government officials said yesterday (Alfred Savila writes).

Karpov breaks pattern of opening gambit

Moscow (Reuters) - Challenger Gary Kasparov kept up a war of nerves in game 40 of the world chess championship match yesterday repeating the opening - Queen's Gambit declined - used by White in the last two games.

But Anatoly Karpov, the defending champion, broke the pattern on move 13. After half an hour's thought, he chose a new variation, sidestepping any improvement the Kasparov camp might have worked out over the past week.

Kasparov chose the opening, which put pressure on the champion in game 38 and was then used against him by Karpov in the following game.

Fortieth game
White Kasparov. Black Karpov
Queen's Gambit declined

1 P-Q4	1-K3	2 P-QB4	P-K3
3 N-K3	P-Q4	4 K-Q3	B-K2
5 B-K2	P-B3	6 B-K2	O-O
7 P-K3	B-K2	8 B-K2	B-K2
9 B-K2	B-K2	10 P-P	P-P
11 P-QB4	B-K2	12 P-P	P-P
13 P-QB2	B-K2		

Magnetic North Pole drifts west

Ottawa - Canadian Government scientists have rediscovered the magnetic North Pole and found that it has moved about 67 miles to the north-west during the past 18 years (John Best writes).

An expedition from the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources pinpointed the pole at a spot in Belcher Channel near Longueuse Island, in Canada's Arctic archipelago. This is about 950 miles south of the geographical North Pole.

Mr Larry Newitt, the chief scientist on the project, said in an interview that the information was vital to the preparation of magnetic charts of Canada, carried out about every 10 years.

The location of magnetic north is also important to navigation, since the angle between true north and magnetic north must be considered in using compasses. This does not apply to polar flying, because impulses from the Earth's magnetic field in northerly regions render compasses erratic.

A succession of attacks by the SPLA around Juba, an area which was not affected by the revolt until recently, has led the Norwegian authorities to advise aid workers to send out their wives and children.

Aircraft flown from Nairobi

Aid workers' airlift

Nairobi - Families of Norwegian aid workers are being airlifted out of southern Sudan as a precaution in view of increasing activity by guerrillas of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (Charles Harrison writes).

The SPLA's clandestine radio station has been broadcasting appeals to southerners in Juba to join the revolt. Travellers say many people have left Juba to return to their home areas.

Some British aid workers, including teachers, are still at their posts in Juba but have no dependent with them.

Kohl in row over Silesia claim

From Our Own Correspondent, Bonn

East Europe told *Die Welt* that only a peace treaty could legally settle the chaos left after the Second World War.

Herr Dreger also suggested that Silesia, the German territory annexed by Poland after the war, would remain Polish for ever, although it would not be as it was before 1945.

Furious debate has been going on here for the past three weeks over a proposal by

Chancellor Kohl to attend a rally of Germans driven from Silesia, under the slogan "Silesia remains ours".

After confidential reports from German embassies in East Europe told the Chancellor that his presence and implicit approval of the slogan would have disastrous effects on Bonn's relations with East Europe, Herr Kohl has tried to get the Silesians to change the wording, so far without success.

How ratecapping will affect the City's relationship with local government.

The financial institutions of the City of London have a long-standing relationship with local government.

It has operated to their mutual benefit and satisfaction regardless of the political persuasion of the councils in power.

During the last five years local government finance has been made much more complicated by a series of measures introduced by central government.

These were said to be needed in order to reduce the level of council spending.

In fact, the Government's own Audit Commission Report has found that these measures were responsible for raising rates.

According to the Report "...rate bills in the last 3 years have probably been, on average, some £400m or more a year higher than would have been necessary."

The Report also says that Whitehall's systems have made the management of local finance uncertain and extremely difficult.

Despite all this local authorities have continued to

administer services which cost about £30 billion a year.

And inevitably the City has continued to assist them on a day to day basis.

But now, instead of reforming the system, the government has introduced ratecapping.

Which means they can impose an absolute limit on what a local authority spends.

Critics from all parties, and people of no declared political allegiance, have said this will make a bad situation worse.

In particular they have said that the uncertainties that already exist in the system will now be felt by the City institutions which provide local government with financial services.

Indeed there is some evidence that this has already begun.

The last thing the City wants is to see doubt cast upon the authorities' ability to pay their debts.

And the authorities themselves clearly have nothing to gain from such an outcome.

Ratecapping makes no sense.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON RATECAPPING CONTACT ANY OF THE FOLLOWING AUTHORITIES: BARKING AND DAGENHAM · CAMDEN · GREENWICH · HACKNEY · HARINGEY · ISLINGTON · LAMBETH · LEWISHAM · NEWHAM · SOUTHWARK · GLC · ILEA

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Conducting his own success

The Times Profile: Mark Elder

To reach the top in music takes luck as well as skill - more luck in a conductor's case than with an instrumentalist or singer.

In the last generation two young English conductors have had that luck, and have risen fast and high: Simon Rattle, still in his twenties, conductor of the Birmingham Symphony, and Mark Elder, music director of the English National Opera.

Of Mr Elder's gifts there is no doubt. When the ENO's new production of Tchaikovsky's *Vacanze* opened just before Christmas the critics were mostly hostile - and some wildly so - to the production. All were bowled over by Mr Elder's account of the score: "thrilling" (*Financial Times*), "irresistibly zestful and committed" (*Observer*). "Tumultuous" said our own Paul Griffiths. This is high praise for a conductor not yet 40 (he is 38 this June), but then Mark Elder's career has been remarkable in many ways.

His rise hasn't been quite so fast as Mr Rattle's, but he was head of the ENO at 32 when many budding conductors are still scratching for hack work. Good fortune and the course of events ran his way, but besides that he made his own luck by hard work, driving ambition, and outstanding natural musicianship.

He does not come from a musical background. Mark Elder was born, by accident in Northumberland, in 1947. His family are Londoners and he has spent his life in London since. He grew up in the suburbs where his father worked as a dentist. He might have gone conventionally into one of the professions, but though no musician, his mother noticed an aptitude for choral singing at Canterbury Cathedral Choir School, entered her son, and determined the course of his life.

From Canterbury with its excellent technical grounding,

"You conduct opera to see how the music breathes". La Scala's former principal Carlo Giulini once told him, and a wind player knows what it's like to be a soloist with strings, like a singer, and must learn also about phrasing.

Although he read the music tripos, Mr Elder spent less and less time at his formal studies, especially as the syllabus became ever more jejune. His real musical life was extra-curricular. He conducted opera for the first time, with Pountney - who was also at Cambridge - producing. Their first work together was an esoteric piece, Scarlatti's *Trionfo dell'Onore*.

Even before he left Cambridge he had caught discerning eyes, even without formal training. Admittedly, as Wilhelm Furtwängler said, you can learn the technical rudiments of conducting in three quarters of an hour, but something else is necessary: that luck we spoke of for one thing. Whereas a violinist or tenor can give an idea of how good they are on

**He has flair.
A knack of
dealing with
an orchestra**

their own in a short audition, a conductor needs the opportunity to direct an orchestra. When he had the chance, Elder demonstrated his remarkable innate musicality.

He has flair to a high degree, a knack of dealing with an orchestra immediately (shared by one of his conducting idols, Giulini, though conspicuously not by the other, Reginald Goodall). And although now he rarely accompanies in public and has little time for piano practice, those who have heard him say that this too demonstrates his natural musicianship.

He worked as a répétiteur at the Wexford Festival and gave his first professional performance, a Rossini overture. He did a bit of work for the BBC and then found a job at Glyndebourne. "One remembers all one's life the people who've been prepared to give one an opportunity with very little evidence", he says of the company in general and of Glyndebourne's legendary chief répétiteur Janni Sirasser in particular. At Glyndebourne, doing work which included walk-on parts, he made friends with fellow spear-carrier Peter Jonas.

After working as chorus master on a couple of operas, still only 23, he was offered a job on the music staff of the Royal Opera for the lavish salary of £52 a week, more than twice his previous pay. At Covent Garden he met Edward Downes who asked Mark to accompany him to Australia where he was taking over the Australian Opera.

It was there that he made his professional debut in the opera-house pit, conducting *Rigoletto*, a piece with which he has since been triumphantly associated, though it was not a triumphant



beginning. The score begins with solo trumpet and trombone. As he lowered his baton only the trumpet came in. "I thought I was in the wrong job".

In fact, Australia was a marvellous break: he conducted 165 performances there in his two years, a rare experience for a conductor in his twenties. It was in at the deep end, handling an orchestra. He learned that "the gesture you make must be associated with the sound you want" - a deceptively simple prescription.

Then, still not 30, he was asked to join the English National Opera and has stayed ever since. When the very successful musical reign of Sir Charles Mackerras was followed less successfully by the directorship of Sir Charles Groves, Groves was persuaded to leave after little more than a year. At 32 this wonderful job was offered to Elder.

He had played no part in his predecessor's departure, but seized the opportunity eagerly. As he has shown since, Mark Elder is not lacking in self-confidence. Although they are very different characters, he is reminiscent of Sir Peter Hall: the same mixture of intelligence, charm, ambition and ruthlessness.

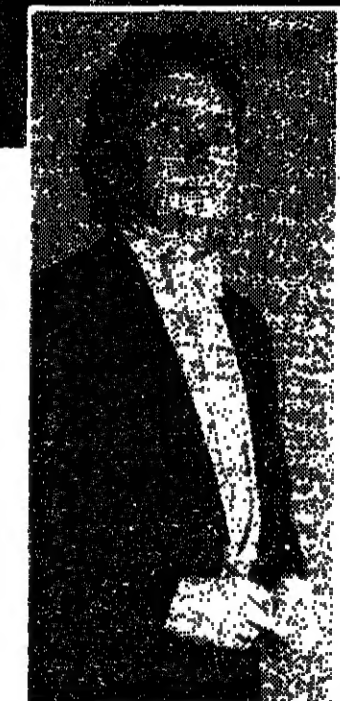
Next to leave the ENO was its director of production, Colin Graham. He was succeeded by Elder's boyhood friend David Pountney. They have been in harness together since, with mixed fortunes. At its best the team has been a brilliant success, and they still get on well together, an almost unique

occurrence in the history of conductor-producer relationships, which always seem to end in tears.

Mr Pountney hints at the reason. "He's exceptionally interested in what's happening on the stage." Most conductors affect to be, but in reality they see the stage action as a threat to their music. Not Elder, who pays the closest and most

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Top: Mark Elder, an accomplished pianist, pictured at home. Left: He excels when in charge of the orchestra



professional attention to the production. At best this has produced some thrilling evenings. Dvorak's recently revived *Rusalka* for example.

There have also been awkward hiccups, including the first leg of what was to have been the ENO's new Ring, whose completion is now indefinitely postponed.

But in general Mr Elder can take a large part of the credit for the very high standard of theatrical adventurousness: hits like the Jonathan Miller *Rigoletto*, misses like one or two other offerings which it would be invidious to list. We shall see which category *Mazepa*, produced by the controversial American David Alden, comes into at its final performance tonight.

Brilliant though Dr Miller's production was, *Rigoletto* was largely Mr Elder's achievement. Verdily his first and greatest love. Again and again the Coliseum orchestra has been in "cracking form" - the *Musical Times*' phrase - under his direction.

But although Verdi is a highly important part of any opera conductor's repertoire, there are still surprising gaps in Mark

HIGH NOTES IN A MUSICAL CAREER

1947: Born June 2 near Hexham, Northumberland.
1952-59: Educated London: Canterbury Cathedral Choir School; Bryanston; Corpus Christi College, Cambridge.
1959-70: Music staff, Wexford Festival Opera.
1970-71: Chorus master and assistant conductor, Glyndebourne Festival Opera.
1970-72: Music staff, Royal Opera.
1972-74: Staff conductor, Australian Opera.
1974-75: Staff conductor, English National Opera.
1975: Music Director, ENO.

Elder's list of achievements. He has begun to get to grips with Wagner and made excellent work of *Madame Butterfly* recently. He even claims hyperbole that when he is really carefully and sensitively conducted, Puccini is a "very great composer". But he has yet to make his mark with Mozart or other pre-romantic composers.

He has plenty of time, and energy. Mr Elder works extremely hard, at the opera house and at home in Islington where he lives with his second wife, Amanda Stein, the ENO's planning coordinator. He likes to travel, likes playing tennis (as well as watching *Match of the Day*) and enjoys the country; but he has little time to spare from his career. For one thing he has a very heavy work load at the ENO, not only in musical preparation and performance but in what the RAF calls "admin and org".

He has worked smoothly with Lord Harewood, who next year hands over his reins as managing director to Peter Jones, a surprise appointment and presumably one in which Mr Elder played a large part. This triumvirate of young contemporaries may prove a landmark in London's operatic life, though fears have already been expressed about the lack of an elder restraining hand.

And what comes after? Mark Elder has numerous operatic ambitions for the company and for himself - a new production of Verdi's *Simon Boccanegra*. Falsaff he hopes, *Midsummer Marriage* in May. But he has wider horizons also.

He has begun to build up his symphonic repertoire, four out of nine Beethoven symphonies so far, a bit of Haydn, the French moderns Debussy and Ravel.

As yet he has, he admits, little feeling for the late romantics like Mahler. He has connections with several symphony orchestras, including the Chicago which he recently conducted at home, and he has helped to promote new British and other recent music.

Sooner or later these two remarkable musicians are surely going to swap spheres of action. Mr Rattle, who has so far conducted almost entirely within the symphonic repertoire, is moving towards the opera house, while Mr Elder is breaking out of his operatic confines. "I look forward to the time when I have my own orchestra," he says. Although out of loyalty to the ENO and his partners he will stay at St Martin's Lane for the time being, the day cannot be very far distant when Mr Elder - or presumably Sir Mark - takes charge of one of the London symphony orchestras.

Geoffrey Wheatcroft

moreover...

Miles Kington

UK dollars
just won't
make cents

I can reveal that one of the most popular items in the British currency is to disappear. Yes, the pound itself is to be completely phased out during 1985 and replaced by the American dollar. The British Government's plans, which they had hoped to keep secret, are to wait till the pound sinks to the exact level of the dollar and then introduce the dollar instead of the pound.

The thinking behind this move is that it may effectively prevent the pound sinking below the value of the dollar. The Government concedes that it may be embarrassing to have an imported note as our main unit of currency, with a picture of George Washington on it, but their attitude is that most people in Britain couldn't tell you what was on the pound note anyway, and that a lot of us will automatically assume that the gent with white hair is Shakespeare or Gladstone.

They will be helped in their campaign by the fact that the new pound coin is so unpopular. Indeed, it is suspected that they deliberately introduced the unpopular pound coin so that people would welcome its replacement by the dollar.

Be that as it may, the disappearance of the familiar quid is going to cause a lot of unrest. The pound has played a significant part in the history of these islands, as a tame historian was quick to confirm when we rang him up for an instant quote.

"My goodness, yes, it certainly has. You know, of course, that when the pound sterling was originally introduced by Edward III, it was made of solid gold, encrusted with gems and sold in its own velvet-lined case? In those days a pound could buy an army for a month, a small province in France or a quickie divorce from the Pope. Nowadays you can hardly buy a pint of beer with it. In 1389, if you bought a pint of beer with a pound, the change was so minute they usually gave you the pound back."

In Henry VIII's day the pound became made of silver and was renamed a 'sovereign', after Henry himself. It was also bigger, to get a full portrait of himself on one side and the complete works and music of *Great Expectations* on the other. This was a clever move on his part, as it meant that every time a pound changed hands he got royalties as songwriter, lyricist and publisher.

"The first paper pound came in sometime in the 18th century - not like our paltry pound note, of course, but a small, well-bound booklet of some 20 pages, explaining the conditions under which it was sold and a hundred and one other uses to which it could be put, including the cleaning of pewter and use as a passport. People also used it as a substitute for chewing tobacco - do you remember the phrase about people shifting their quid from one cheek to the other?"

"And did you know that in Victorian times they very nearly granted Charles Dickens permission to serialize a novel on the pound note, such was his popularity? Of course, I can't swear to all these facts, as my phone is the far end of the room from my reference books, but I don't suppose anyone will know any difference. And if you can pay me in dollars as usual... Thanks."

The implications are staggering. We have succumbed to American influences in many spheres - our English music tradition has been totally replaced by American sources, and our television is going the same way - but to surrender something as basic as the pound is akin to driving on the right or ordering a half-litre of best bitter. In fact, my sources tell me that the psychological risks involved may cause the Government to think again and to stick to the pound after all.

If that is the case, then we shall never hear the announcement of the switch to the dollar. And if that happens, remember that you didn't just read it here last as well.

Peter Evans

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Happy neighbours - thanks to the conciliation officer

A service to help settle trivial but potentially damaging disputes between neighbours is proving a huge success after its first year of operation in an east London borough.

The Newham Conflict and Change Project is the first of its kind in the country. Its volunteers have worked on 44 cases and it has attracted more than 60 inquiries.

Its speciality is patching up quarrels like the one between the Mehmetts and their next-door neighbours the de Souzas (not their real names), who have been at odds for the past four years. When the de Souzas thought Mrs Mehmet's industrial sewing machine made too much noise too late into the night next to their small son's bedroom, they called in an environmental health officer. And they called the police when Mr Mehmet was working on his car and left seats on the pavement. When an argument broke out over this, the police were called again.

Things got so bad that Mrs Mehmet put her house up for sale. "I felt like a prisoner in my own home", she said. "I am not saying it wasn't my fault, it takes two to make an argument."

Now, thanks to the Newham Project, the feuding families pass each other cups of tea over the garden fence, and sort out their problems with a friendly chat.

It was the de Souzas who decided to break the ice, after

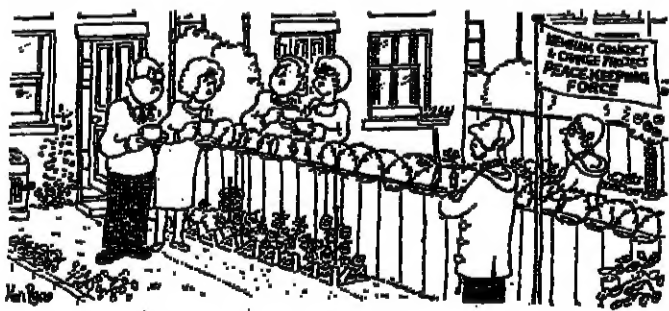
hearing about the project from a Citizen's Advice Bureau. Two volunteers, Megan Dowling and Persia Jarvis, went to visit the families to see what could be done. They suggested a meeting. It didn't work. "But talking to us and visiting us did reduce the pressure," said Mrs de Souza.

Megan gave Mrs Mehmet her telephone number and told her: "If you want to 'have a go', have a go at me."

"One day I did have a go at her", said Mrs Mehmet. "She calmed me down, saying perhaps it wasn't as bad as it seemed. She came down in the evening by bike just to see me." Reconciliation finally came when the two neighbours eventually got a smile out of each other. Volunteers again encouraged them to talk. This time it worked. Now, as the experts say, the families define their boundaries. They have made a rule not to go into each other's homes.

"We are OK if we are talking over the fence or in the road", said Mrs de Souza. "We give cups of tea over the fence. If there is something irritating us, we talk about it in a civilized manner rather than snarl at each other." And Mrs Mehmet has moved the sewing machine.

It is a good example of what can happen when neighbours fall out. In a report, the project says: "From the outside, and even to the people involved, it often seems that the conflict is more intense than the issues justify. Emotions run higher, positions harden, and the fight



seems unstoppable. It may culminate in a legal battle or physical violence.

Newham itself can help fan conflict. Male unemployment is 14 per cent, one-third of the area's houses are without either bathrooms, indoor toilets or hot water, and the population is one of the most racially mixed in the country.

There were seven complaints of racial harassment, but the most common complaints were about noise, fences and car parking, said project co-ordinator Jonathan Gosling.

The Newham Project was set up by local residents influenced by American moves towards community self-help schemes and away from reliance on formal agencies and professional workers. They consulted organisations in the area and the Tavistock Institute of Human Relations.

Volunteers see the courts as a costly over-reaction to many trivial issues, and aim to give local residents a bigger part in settling their own troubles.

That is how the movement is portrayed in *Reparation, Conciliation and Mediation*, a Home Office research and planning unit report.

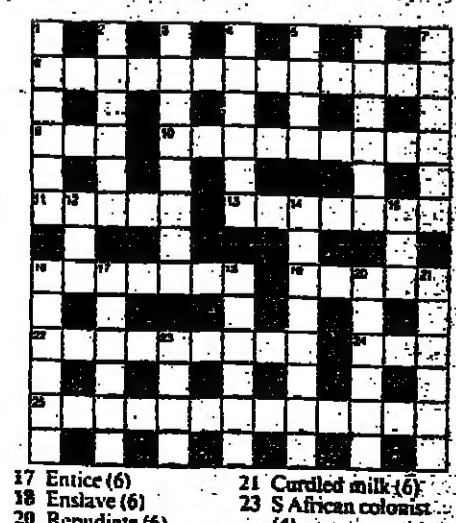
The conciliation movement is part of one of those seismic shifts in dealing with conflict, whether or not it comes to court. Crime is the most acute form of conflict, and violent crime takes it to an extreme.

Aid to victims by community volunteers is at one end of the spectrum, dealing with the effects of crime. At the other, neighbourhood watch, involving the community seeks to prevent it.

Peter Evans

CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 540)

ACROSS
8 Landing gear (13)
9 Long lettuce (3)
10 Wide-ranging (4,5)
11 Terror (5)
12 Assorted (7)
13 Shoulder tab (7)
14 Hot whisky (5)
15 Narrow-minded (9)
16 Droop (3)
17 Coastal fort (8,5)
DOWN
1 Wheel cover (6)
2 Expected to win (4,2)
3 Three-imagined (8)
4 Wan (6)
5 God of love (4)
6 Oriental market (6)
7 Erase (6)
12 Current unit (3)
14 Vigour (8)
15 Unhappy (3)
16 Puzzle (6)



SOLUTION TO No 539

ACROSS: 1 Depict, 4 Pestle, 7 Pail, 8 Mistrust, 9 Infringe, 13 Few, 16 Pontius Pilate, 17 Lay, 19 Haystack, 24 Cachepot, 25 Bill, 26 Deadly, 27 Namely.
DOWN: 1 Dope, 2 Poignancy, 3 Tempi, 4 Prang, 5 Same, 6 Laika, 10 Reich, 11 Nasty, 12 Evict, 13 Franchise, 14 Wood, 15 Opal, 16 Alibi, 20 Apply, 21 Satan, 22 Shed, 23 Stay.

BOOKS

Ancient and Modern:
the Poet as bridge

The world in which Olivia Shakespeare moved was decidedly artistic: she was a cousin of the poet Lionel Johnson; she had an affair with W. B. Yeats, who remained a lifelong friend; and she introduced the young Ezra Pound into London literary society. It is worth remembering, though, that artistic circles did not necessarily condone Bohemian behaviour. When the brilliant young American poet whom she had helped to launch had the rashness to fall in love with her daughter, Olivia did her best to restrict Ezra's meetings with Dorothy to once a week. Ezra's father, Homer Loomis Pound, corresponded with Dorothy's father and confirmed that Ezra had an income of £200 a year, which he supplemented with his writings. But the sum was not nearly enough.

In 1912 Oliver wrote to Ezra asking him to see less of her daughter. The letter gives a striking view of the conventions within which Yeats's former mistress chose to live. Dorothy had not discussed Ezra with her mother and.

I don't know if she still considers herself engaged to you - but as she obviously can't marry you, she must be made to realize that she can't go on as if you were her accepted lover - it's hardly decent. I'm sure your point too - which is the personal convenience and rather to myself - I had all last winter, practically to keep two days a week for you in one and see as much of you as I could when there was some chance of your marrying her, and I put up with it. But I really can't put up with it for the remainder of our lives - it gets on my nerves.

Olivia was afraid, she told Ezra of getting stuck with her daughter. Suppose, she wrote, her husband dies, she and the daughter would probably marry again. And Dorothy would be "very much de trop" - all the more reason for her to marry someone else, and soon. This last bit of reasoning does sound incredibly selfish, but one can perhaps imagine that a mother might really fear very much the prospect of being lumbered with a daughter in such a society. The letter ends: "Tomorrow is her birthday, and all I can feel is that I wish she had never been

James Fenton on
the Pound in
your pocket
and his letters

EZRA POUND AND
DOROTHY
SHAKESPEAR, THEIR
LETTERS, 1909-1914
Edited by Omar Pound and
A. Walton Litz
Faber, £25

born. She chose her parents very wisely.

Ezra and Dorothy seem to have had the sense to live meekly but doggedly under the restrictions imposed by her parents, corresponding (but not so frequently as to cause too much comment from her relatives) and meeting whenever convention allowed. The courtship took five years and on one occasion Dorothy broke off what she considered to be her engagement to Ezra. But he seems to have been completely constant in his intentions. All her letters and messages were carefully preserved. There are gaps on his side of the correspondence, which seem to indicate that Dorothy destroyed his most intimate communications. So what we read in this collection is not raw passion - although it is perfectly obvious that the relationship sprang from passion.

Dorothy's life must have been depressingly genteel, despite the artistic connections. She paints and she reads the latest novels and she ventures on the authors whom Ezra sets before her. And she reads his poems. But she is not in awe of him, she is quite capable of saying that she has not yet read the Noh play he sent her, because she has been making curtains for her bedroom. Ezra sometimes asks her advice. Her judgments may be unremarkable, but they seem honest. What about Ezra? He must have been tremendous fun. Even Olivia has to warn him, when trying to turn him away from the door, that he would

gain nothing by being cheeky. She obviously feared his charm. Dorothy's poor old father, once the marriage was agreed to, obviously finds it hard to know what to think when it is proposed that the wedding be a civil ceremony and when he receives a letter outlining the Quaker attitude to marriage in the United States. These letters belong to the period of the young poet's instant fame in London, the period before his work was "clouded" (to use the editors' words) by politics, economics and anti-Semitism. But they are also a reminder of a kind we sometimes need, of the peculiar nature of Pound's poetic revolution.

For the odd thing about Pound is not that he rebelled against other people's poetic practice of the time, but that he managed to rebel against himself. The young man here, although he shares many of the enthusiasms of the modernist Pound, is working in a language and style that seemed antique to some of his contemporaries and must strike us as perversely artificial. It is not true, as is popularly believed, that every poet in the period was using theses and theses until Eliot and Pound came along and told them to stop. In comparison with Pound's early poetry, Kipling and Housman sound unproblematically modern. When we read here in the notes that Arthur Quiller-Couch wanted in 1912 to include Pound in *The Oxford Book of Victorian Verse* it may come at first as a shock. But Pound said: "This is no small honour - at least I should count it a recognition."

He was an admirer of Swinburne and a disciple of Yeats, who not only befriended him but later deferred to his judgment. Among the many poets and artists he helped and promoted (for Pound was the most generous of admirers - it is perhaps his most strikingly nice quality) were T. S. Eliot and William Carlos Williams. He found his own way out of the somewhat arts-and-crafts world of literary London, to a new style and a new ethos. One

suspects that this struggle was so well articulated by him because it was simply more difficult for him than for other poets to get out of the fancy dress.

By the end of the volume we see him in an interview laying down his guidelines for poets. The emphasis is on learning from practitioners of the arts. "Pay no attention to the criticisms of men who have never themselves written a notable work. Don't imagine that the art of poetry is any

simpler than the art of music or that you can please the expert before you have spent at least as much effort on the art of verse as the average piano teacher spends on the art of music." A single sentence of Pound's - "Consider the definiteness of Dante's presentation as compared with Milton's rhetoric" - could stand as an examination question to be answered by T. S. Eliot in two notable essays. Finally, here, in 1914, is Pound's view of the nature and purpose of poetry:

Poetry is the one art in which mediocrity is unpardonable. Literature is the poor man's bridge to the best art or the best sculpture, but he need never be shut out from the best poetry. To my mind, the object of poetry is to focus the light on something, and I do not care what the reader sees in a poem so long as he sees beauty. There are two ways of presenting beauty - by satire, which clears away the rubbish and allows the central loveliness to reveal itself, and by the direct presentation of beauty itself.

Novel intrigues in
Greece and Belfast

FICTION

Isabel Raphael

COUP D'ETAT
By John Harvey
Collins, £9.95

THE KILLING OF
YESTERDAY'S
CHILDREN
By M. S. Power
Chilton & Woods, £9.95

SLOW LEARNER
By Thomas Pynchon
Cape, £8.50

After the season of peace and goodwill, a chill Epiphany offering: two remarkable novels of political violence and intrigue, warlike and deadly. John Harvey's *Coup d'Etat* describes the 1967 takeover by the Colonels in Greece and its effect on a family of differing political persuasions. Vangelis is a labour lawyer, with a watertight case against the Government, a case of torture and resultant brain-damage. He is intent on hoisting the Colonels with their own petard, by strictly legal means. It is their law, they are committed. They cannot get out of it. When his confidence turns out to be misplaced and he disappears into a military prison, his wife Chryssa, a university lecturer, turns for help to her sister's husband.

But Leonidas has seen a chance for his political ambitions in this unscrupulous regime, a man who by his opportunism alienates his own son will take no risks for a radical brother-in-law. Chryssa's only comfort comes from Michael, an English journalist who loves her, but whose cool detachment throws into perspective the complete involvement of the Greeks in which ever cause they have invested their loyalty.

Many of these causes are lost in the course of the novel: on the barricades, in the bedroom, on the battlefield, but never in the heart. John Harvey cares very much for his people. He writes with feeling but without sentimentality, in sorrow as well as in anger, without the distortion of melodrama. The scenes of torture are explicit without being salacious, the moments of love a tender release of deeply-felt emotion. There is great strength in this moving and extremely readable novel and great hope.

The Killing of Yesterday's Children is unrelentingly grim. M. S. Power's Belfast is a city of misery and mistrust, where human lives are pawns in an unending game of death. Among the standard actors in the drama - the Bogside killer-boy recruited because of his accurate fairground shooting, the honourable colonel appalled by the cold-blooded rules of the game - stalks Arthur Apple, a

genuine oddity with more than a whiff of Graham Greene about him. A minor diplomat, retired after a macabre Satanic encounter with Mexican Indians, he carries the scars of his flagellation under such an effective cloak of anonymity that he appears to be the ideal fence for both sides.

Established inconspicuously in a betting-shop to launder IRA funds and to report to the RUC, he battles with unseen demons that have far greater reality to him than the executioners who surround him. But he too can play the game, with a shrewdness that baffles his employers and, briefly, triumphantly, he seems about to checkmate them all. In the end he even fulfils his weird mission to bring light and peace, in the most unexpected circumstances and to the most unlikely recipient.

To succeed in balancing reality and fantasy in a contemporary setting like this is no mean feat. Power knows exactly when to swing from one to the other, to cut out just as credulity becomes stretched, applying the discipline of the short story to the wider scope of a novel.

Five early short stories of Thomas Pynchon, collected under the title *Slow Learner*, are tiresome, embarrassing, puerile, and derivative. He says so himself in the introduction, presumably applying the title to himself, and on the principle, I suppose, of *qui s'excuse s'accuse*. I found them also brilliant, in flashes and attractively bizarre; but not a patch on his later work. Devotees of Thomas Pynchon, read on - but don't say he didn't warn you.

Behind enemy and TV lines

Robin Brook

SOE
By M. R. D. Foot
JBC, £8.50

Over 20 years Professor Foot has consolidated his premier position as historian of resistance and, in particular, of SOE as the designated executor of British policy and strategy in this field. In his *SOE in France*, his skill and industry in unravelling skeins that were obscure as well as tangled were both astonishing and satisfying.

The present handbook is a crystallization rather than an extension of his previous work. It was evidently intended as background to the BBC series, but - perhaps owing to changes in the timing and contents of the planned programme - it supplements rather than complements the episodes actually shown.

The first half of the book concentrates on the technical side, which naturally was not covered on the screen, and is

admirably summarized and indispensable to those interested in the methods and problems of operation. The second half includes, with a summary of activities and results in many fields, the vital component which should have been covered in the television series but was almost entirely lacking: an exposition of the rationale of the whole organization and its political, military and economic conceptual basis and motives.

Professor Foot's long immersion in the subject has soaked him in the philosophy as much as in the facts. Monographs by Monty Woodhouse, by Julian Amery and, on a different plane, by Chris Burney, paved the way in a previous generation; but Michael Foot has the advantage of long research in the patchy documentation available to enable him to provide a distillation which gives purpose to the enterprise and in the sacrifices that it demanded. In these two wide aspects the book provides the

background required by the necessarily selective episodes of the television series. In a secondary capacity, it also provides a corrective element to the exaggeration of the programme of Holland, where faking was thought justified to a degree which - to their credit - caused both the series Producer and his Assistant to reject the inclusion of their names in the "credits". But it remains unfortunate and misleading that the curtain was dropped on Dutch resistance as though it was extinguished by disaster. Perhaps some day amendments may be made and tribute paid to their outstanding services in the field during the advance of 21 Group through Holland.

Owing to the changes in timing and contents, the correlation between the book and the programme is slight. Fortunately Professor Foot's book stands free on its merits as a valuable supplement to resistance literature.

Several familiar themes are usefully underlined. The first is that the Executive itself was an improvisation. Being hastily organized and rapidly expanded, by the standards of the other Services it was "a bunch of amateurs"; by the end of campaigns, comparatively few of the staff had served thereon for more than two years, perhaps three, or in the particular job for more than one.

Another recurrent theme is that the tenor of the war led to a marked phasing of activities behind the enemy lines. The initial phase was normally tentative, small in scale and low-key in objective; larger scale operations might be conducted in Commando style, such as the exploit of blowing up the Hark Hydro, the Norwegian plant producing heavy water for the Germans. Then followed, as the enemy went on the defensive and supplies improved, the build up of more widespread (and inevitably less clandestine) forces requiring more resources. Finally came the emergence of the guerrilla forces into open cooperation with the invading and advancing allies. Examples of the expansion of possibilities at this stage are the 930 strategic cuts in the French railway system on the night of D-day; in the holding up for 10 days of 2 "SS" Panzer on its way to Normandy (fascinating details of the sub-agents concerned are better left to the book); and later the "counter-scorching" - prevention of the demolition of installations - at the port of Antwerp. With the crescendo in the scale and scope comes the rise in morale, in "resistance".

The final point of a more technical order is the method and speed of the enemy, particularly the German, Direction Finding. Altogether the transmission, coding and tracking of this vast traffic behind the enemy lines makes fascinating though sometimes tragic reading.

William Frend's studies in early Christian history have in the past been directed mainly towards dissident or nonconformist groups: schismatics like the Donatists of fourth century North Africa, or the Monophysites of Egypt and Syria who rejected the fourth ecumenical council at Chalcedon (451). He has hitherto tended to think well of individuals or groups who at the time were not much appreciated by authority. More over, these earlier studies have been marked by a greater concern for social history than for the often complex ideas.

His new book, long and heavy on the wrist, takes 1022 pages to tell the story of mainstream Christianity down to the death of Pope Gregory the Great (604). So he prudently stops well short of the iconoclastic controversy and the high tension between Franks and Byzantines. Not only is the orthodox Catholic church now firmly in the centre of the stage, but the ideas are also more confidently handled. Indeed, questions of social history are relatively a minor theme, and one would sometimes have liked a little more on the subject.

The book's aim is to show how it could come about that the religion of a good and wise but rural Galilean conquered the urbanized society of the western world and parts of the East as well, all in a remarkable short space of time. In the main the book's thesis is unsurprising. Christian success Frend sees to be factored by the Jewish background and especially the dispersion of Jews throughout the Roman empire. But it was then further enhanced by the second century churches' willingness to adapt to city life without surrendering the special tenets of a revealed faith. In some cases (it is mentioned in passing) miraculous cures led to conversions. So the Gentile Christians were able to be more assimilated than observant but high-brow hellenized and urban Jews like Philo of Alexandria: they were free of the particularities of Judaism.

How the old
Galilean
conquered
the world

Henry Chadwick

THE RISE OF
CHRISTIANITY
By W. H. C. Frend
Darton, Longman & Todd, £35

The pioneers Frend discovers in the gnostic theosophists. The orthodox frankly imitated them in absorbing the surrounding culture and religiosity, while jettisoning their quietism, dualism, and libertinism. So we have Christianity fusing a Hebrew monotheism with Stoicism and Platonism, and making a more exalted moral demand on its rivals. Dedication was expressed in readiness for martyrdom. The message was in all essentials learned and unlearned alike, unencumbered by the mythological fantasies of gnostics like the Manichees. (The argument does not consider whether the erotic Manichee myths may not have been for many part of the attraction.) In a pagan world already turning away from blood sacrifices, Christianity outbid its competitors by the religion for its empire would be better cared for by the "God of the Christians" than by the old pantheons. Before long the old aristocratic families came to think Christianity could be adapted to become a fitting religion for gentlemen, or at least for their ladies. Apocalyptic and potentially revolutionary elements were therefore marginalized and censured as

heresy. Frend contemplates the fourth century as marked by serene and peaceful "consensus", which was then torn apart in the next century: in the west by barbarian invaders, in the east by divisive controversy about the mystery of the person of Christ. A parting of east and west was hastened by the conciliar structures developed in the Greek world, contrasting with the centralized, priestly structure of Roman leadership and claims to jurisdiction. Latin Christianity accordingly sank into dark age barbarism, Greek Orthodoxy into internal theological conflict, while, beyond the frontier, missionary movements took Nestorians from Persia across central Asia to China, and took Monophysites up the Nile from Alexandria to Ethiopia. Since which time everything has continued more or less as Islam and Professor Frend have left it.

It is an ambitious endeavour to tell this huge story even in so fat a volume which includes highly elaborate chronological tables, maps, and references. As usual, Frend's strength lies in the broad movements of his brush on a large canvas, and among the details there is plenty to dispute or at least to wonder at. Frend has a taste for paradoxical judgments. He never fails the reader when writing about archaeological sites he knows and about digs in which he has personally participated, and the evident zest of such passages is such that one cries for yet more. As the book moves towards the end there is some sense of haste and pressure on space. Homeric struggles like the street-fighting in Rome during the Laurentian schism (the outcome of which had far-reaching consequences for the theory of papal superiority to councils) get mere allusions which must baffle the uninformed. There is a good deal in this book's manner which suggests that Frend is often writing here not for a general public, so much as for fellow scholars. But if there are surprises and disappointments, there is far more to evoke pleasure and admiration.

Thud and blunder in earnest

THRILLERS

Tim Heald

SECRET AGENTS IN
FICTION
Ian Fleming, John le Carré
and Len Deighton
By Lars Ole Sauerberg
Macmillan, £22.50

might concede, if pushed, that the Almighty knows about the odds at baccarat, but I wonder if he would be entirely convinced that M. is God. Mr Sauerberg produces other interesting evidence from the Fleming oeuvre. There is a brief scene in *Dr No* when M. dismisses his driver, Ex-Leading Stoker Smith, "who pays for the protection of his

lord by his services". Here, obviously, M. alighting from his Roller is a MEDIAEVAL God. In *You Only Live Twice* Bond utters an exclamation "analogical to a violation of the Third Commandment." This seems to Mr Sauerberg to be something of a cliché. "Again", he writes, "the overtones of a deity are clearly felt in Bond's emphasis on the providential nature of his superior."

The other two subjects of Mr Sauerberg's analysis, John le Carré and Len Deighton, do not, apparently, deal in Jehovah figures but they do, like Fleming, use the desk as an analogy. By the time I reached this stage in the dissertation I naturally assumed that the "desk" in the *Engische Spionageroman* was a metaphor for the altar which I still think perhaps

it is. Mr Sauerberg, however, sees it more ambiguously as "a symbol of official power", although "to Le Carré in *CFD* the desk implies superficiality of values and domination by trifle."

If you are wondering what "CFD" stands for it is *Call for the Dead*, Le Carré's first thriller. Mr Sauerberg has rejected the use of full titles on the grounds that they are too "cumbersome". The effect of all those initials (e.g. "There is the same relationship between TTSS and HS as there is between CDF and SWICF") has the additional benefit of making the whole thing appear academically superior and sociologically sound, since even sociologists and post-structuralists might get a bit giggly at the juxtapositions of Northrop Frye

and Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy or Sir Gwynedd and the Green Knight, and Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Spy.

Mr Sauerberg is Lecturer in English and American Literature at the University of Odense and on the evidence of this work it is pretty difficult to imagine him becoming giggly about anything at all. This is a pity, because tucked away in the indescribably turgid prose there are some entertaining notions. (I LIKE the idea of M. as Jehovah). He obviously knows his stuff and can deploy plausible Lit-Crit artillery and some of the questions he discusses (the elusive distinction between what the Times now calls "Crime" and "Thrillers" for instance) are quite (though only quite) interesting.

But before he essays anything like this again Mr Sauerberg should read Richard Usborne's *Clanland Heroes* and, somehow, acquire a sense of humour.

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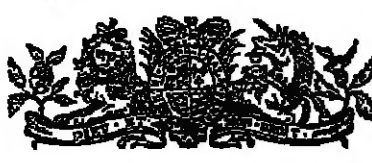
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THE TIMES DIARY

Dead against

Graham Greene's consistent refusal to be seen on television will extend beyond the grave. He has just refused an invitation from Stephen Claypole, news editor of BBC television news, to make a film of his life to be broadcast when he dies. "I would gladly hasten my death rather than write my own obituary," he replied, which leaves Claypole with a problem. Glimpses of Greene on film that could be used for an obituary are scarce indeed. They include views of his back for one old BBC programme, of his hands during an interview for *The South Bank Show*, and of his back again when he took a cameo role in the Truffaut film *Day for Night*. So great is Greene's desire for anonymity that even brother Sir Hugh Greene, former director-general of the BBC, could not lure him before the cameras.

Wait for it

Last month Labour MP Eric Heffer wrote a pained reply to Bernard Levin's attack over his failure to stand when Brighton bomb victim John Wakeham returned to the Commons. Yesterday he almost exploded when I asked if he would be applauding Norman Tebbit on his return today. After 10 minutes of verbal abuse Heffer declared that all he had said was off the record and I would have to wait and see what he did. I shall. Meanwhile I learn that Tebbit will first speak in the Commons during question time on January 30. His first public speech will be at Granada Television's *What The Papers Say* awards on February 5.

Outspoken

Even the Monday Club has limits. It is considering expelling Barry Aylisse, chairman of its Cambridge University branch, for saying that he finds "black" Aylisse, who is at Girton, made the remark during a Cambridge Union debate on immigration last November. The audience was enraged; another speaker, Monday Club MP Harvey Proctor, not a little embarrassed. Proctor has now raised the matter with the Club's executive committee. Unless Aylisse, who admits the remark was "tactless", can exonerate himself he will, I'm told, be out.

Second out

The audience was given no explanation for the omission of the second movement of the seventh symphony of Malcolm Williamson, Master of the Queen's Music, at its premiere on Tuesday. The conductor, Christopher Martin, did, however, stress that the work had been completed — unlike other works which Williamson has conspicuously failed to complete on time, most notably a jubilee symphony whose 1977 premiere before the Queen had to be cancelled. In this instance the second movement was so "exceedingly difficult" that the Melbourne Chamber Strings did not have time to master it.

Making waves

Eight-year-old Aidan Platten, of Portsmouth, thought he had solved the problem of what to do with W H Smith tokens. Fretting over the future of the aircraft carrier *Hermes*, now nearing the end of her life, he wrote to the Navy asking if he could use a £7.50 token and £14 cash to buy her. Rear Admiral John Warsop sent Aidan a photograph of the ship, regretting that she was not his to sell.

BARRY FANTONI



Museum piece

Two merchant banks interested in acquiring the former Royal Mint next to the Tower look certain to be ousted by a surprise contender which wants to convert the building into an Islamic museum. The same Islamic committee made a bid for Edford College in Regent's Park last year, but the deal fell through when it failed to come up with the cash. However, the committee is now believed to have the sort of money the Crown Agents are looking for and both the GLC and Tower Hamlets borough council are said to favour it over two unnamed banks, one British and the other American. The museum committee meets today to elect a new chairman in succession to Sabih Shukri, former manager of the Allied Arab Bank, who is stepping down. Sir Arthur Drew, president of the Museum Association, is expected to take over temporarily.

PHS

A timetable for budget reform

by Tim Eggar

Five years in office, and the Government has just finished the most acrimonious public expenditure round to date. For what? Total expenditure which substantially exceeds original plans, and an electorate convinced there have been "cuts" all round. Backbenchers furious about reductions in the Foreign Office budget and student grants, amounting to around £100 million out of £132 billion, and ministers letting it be known that the offending items had never reached the Cabinet.

Next year's round could be even worse. There is little chance that the Fowler reviews will change the trend of a 5 per cent real increase per year in social security expenditure; nor can savings extracted from drugs companies reduce significantly the 3 per cent real increase in health spending. Neither rate-capping nor capital expenditure control can be expected to eliminate local authority overspending.

There is only one way to avoid this mess: involve Parliament in assessing the details, a step taken by almost every other developed industrial country. Whitehall raises two objections. Such matters, we are told, are too important to be left to Parliament; they are for the executive alone to decide. Yet Parliament did intervene this financial year, and is just as likely to do so in 1985/86. At present parliamentary pressures may lead to

bad decision-taking because pressures are exerted in almost total ignorance of the real options available.

The second defence is that the public expenditure cycle timetable is so tight there is simply no time to include Parliament, which apparently has to fit in with Whitehall's requirements.

But change and objections can be reconciled. The Cabinet could decide before the summer recess, rather than in November, whether the predicted expenditure total is sustainable; and if sustainable, whether individual departmental totals need to be altered. Departments would be advised of their budgets in early August. Under the present system officials already complete their bilateral discussions by July.

In early October, departments would produce a two-part annual report. The first would review activities in the preceding financial year, point to budgeting success or failure and comment on performance against specified targets. The second would examine options available to the department for the coming year in the light of the agreed expenditure total. Select committees, other backbenchers and outside commentators would be able to consider the options

suggested in October and November and there could be a debate about the short-term alternatives.

Departmental priorities would be finalized by early December. Any request for overspending would be settled in Cabinet by mid-January and the final agreed figures would appear in the Public Expenditure White Paper in late March or early April.

The Treasury has seen off similar proposals in the past: it is concerned that such openness would lead to pressures for even higher public expenditure. Yet most other countries operate a similar system and there is little evidence that we have been more successful than others in containing public spending.

There is undoubtedly a problem in setting spending totals in July, four months earlier than at present. Yet the Cabinet would always retain the right to alter the departmental total in the light of changed circumstances.

Unless we change the mechanism, the strains of the public expenditure round will become unbearable. Open discussion will strengthen Parliament without impinging on the executive's absolute right to decide overall priorities. It will also go a long way to fulfilling the commitment to more open government.

The author is Conservative MP for Enfield North.

Bailey Morris on the outcome of the Washington reshuffle

Who now has Reagan's ear?

Washington
With surprising speed, the troika of key advisers who ruled the Reagan White House has been dissolved. The announcement this week that Donald Regan, the treasury secretary, will swap jobs with James A. Baker, the chief of staff, stunned and confused official Washington. On Wall Street officials wondered what it all meant for tax and economic policy. On Capitol Hill, concerns were raised about a vacuum at the top. The question asked most often was: "Who is in charge?"

Initial reaction to the appointment of Baker, the man who has run the White House on a day-to-day basis, as treasury secretary was overwhelmingly favourable. The consensus was that his political skills and low-key style of getting things done more than outweigh his lack of economic and financial experience. But there was less enthusiasm for Regan's appointment to the White House job. His somewhat abrasive style and tendency to ignore professional advice has raised worries about his future relations with the White House staff and Congress. "He is a salesman, not a man of substance. Our committee did not even ask him to testify on the budget last year," said a sceptical congressman.

Political analysts feel that Regan's appointment reinforces the trend of the last six months toward a firm, middle-of-the-road philosophy. The pragmatists, not the conservative "true believers", appear to have won an important victory. One by one, the Californians and their disciples are drifting away. There is hardly anyone left with the ear and trust of the president to remind him of his roots.

"Judge" William Clark, Regan's long-time aide and former California chief of staff, has resigned to return to his West Coast ranch. Michael Deaver, the deputy chief of staff considered a surrogate son and confidante of both the Regans, is leaving for work in the private sector. Edwin Meese, the presidential counsellor associated with Regan since the late 1960s, has been renominated as Attorney-General and is expected to win swift confirmation. Less visible conservative associates such as Faith Ryan Whittlesey, who has been given an ambassadorship, are leaving the White House.

Regan's appointment is almost certain to result in further turnover of the top White House staff. Richard Darman, a presidential assistant who is Baker's top aide, is unlikely to stay on as Regan's deputy beyond a transitional phase. He is being mentioned as the next director of the president's office of management and budget, replacing David Stockman who has angered Regan once again with his message of economic gloom and runaway



Regan and wife Nancy, from influence to an unrivalled position of power. Above, job swap for Donald Regan and James Baker; right, exit Michael Deaver, surrogate son

deficits. The dismantling of the old team is almost complete. But was the switch an intentional act signalling a shift in Regan's aims during his second term? The facts do not bear this out. Indeed, the facts show that Regan himself did not know about the pending changes until the very last, when he was asked to approve them.

On this point Regan, with his characteristic penchant for holding the centre stage, was most clear. "I am the author of this plan," he told the White House staff, according to chief spokesman Larry Speakes. "I know that most policy decisions are made in the Oval Office with two or three people sitting around, and I am going to be one of those people." The Treasury now looks better to Baker than four more years of wear and tear at the White House.

Baker said "yes" to Regan but added that he wanted to consult Deaver. Regan made it clear he would not seek the job if Deaver wanted it. The two men went to Deaver, who assured them he was

anxious to return to private life. Baker, however, said he could not bring himself to tell the president, who was completely unaware of the manoeuvring.

Deaver then took charge. He said he would speed up the announcement of his own resignation (disclosed last Thursday) so it did not appear he had lost out in a power struggle. Deaver also volunteered to put the proposal to the President. Regan was approached on Monday and agreed in principle to the swap. He met Regan and Baker separately the same day and gave approval.

Neither George Bush, the vice-president, nor Robert Dole, the Senate majority leader, knew of the swap until minutes before it was announced. It was the latest in a wave of departures and reassignments expected to mark Regan's second term. Altogether, it is estimated that more than 200 sub-cabinet positions will change hands over the next year.

But what does it all mean? Initially, it appears to mean that Regan's second term will become a two-issue administration, focused heavily on arms control and tax reform, with Regan and Baker as the main spokesmen for the latter. The appointments indicate that Regan will let Congress take the lead and the political heat for deficit reduction and other tough domestic decisions.

But important questions remain. How will the White House now function? Will Regan, who has no foreign policy experience, be able to perform the same function as Baker in presenting the president, who dislikes detail, with a few clear options when important decisions must be taken? Regan, by all accounts, and unlike Baker, never tells the president anything he does not want to hear. Who will perform Deaver's role as guardian of Regan's privacy?

The person who emerges with the most power is Nancy Regan, a political centrist. In a few months, she will be the only true intimate of the president left at the White House. Her influence has always been felt, but generally by working through others, either Deaver or Baker. Although this influence has never been questioned, aides expect it to grow. She has stated clearly her dislike of Regan's former "war-mongering" image and her desire to see him established as the president who brought the world peace.

George Shultz, the Secretary of State, also appears to have gained as a result of the changes. His clashes with Caspar Weinberger, the Defence Secretary, will probably continue, but after the recent changes there is no one strong enough to challenge him as foreign policy spokesman and chief arms negotiator.

From storm centre to the sidelines

Bonn
Eighteen months ago Moscow and Washington were locked in contest for the soul of West Germany. Both recognized it as the lynchpin of Europe, the key to NATO's missile deployment plans and the influential intermediary through whom each attempted to influence the other.

Today, with attention focused on a new round of arms negotiations, West Germany is far from their minds. In the East-West dialogue, where once Bonn set the pace and acted as a catalyst, it now has little to say to either side. Western Europe's mightiest economic and military power has been sidelined.

The reasons lie as much in Bonn as in Washington and Moscow. Under Andropov the Russians were convinced they could influence German public opinion and the German peace movement into making the proposed deployment of cruise and Pershing missiles politically unacceptable. This policy has now changed completely. Instead of seeking to draw Bonn towards them, of enticing it away from its NATO anchoring with the lure of better relations with East Germany, the Russians have reverted to the policy, discarded at the dawn of détente, of casting West Germany in the role of bogymen.

This campaign against "revanchism" taken up by Poland, Czechoslovakia and other Warsaw Pact countries, aims to punish West Germany for going ahead with Pershing deployment. Instead of talking to Bonn, Moscow now snubs it. At Soviet insistence, East German and Bulgarian leaders abruptly cancelled visits here in September.

Mikhail Gorbachev, the powerful Politburo member, chose to respond to overtures from Britain rather than Bonn, and President Chernenko plans a visit to France. Bonn has been left out in the cold.

The US no longer needs to woo Chancellor Helmut Kohl with its former ardour because it won him. Bonn has accepted the new missiles and demonstrated beyond any doubt its loyalty to NATO. Washington's worries that West Germany was going neutralist, becoming unreliable and listening to siren voices in the East have been eased. Washington no longer needs to be seen demonstratively listening to German suggestions, consulting German opinion. The urgency of fighting back to win the propaganda battle on German soil has been lessened.

This does not mean that Washington has stopped coordinating its policies with Bonn, or no longer cares about the opinions of its European allies. In fact precisely because the Geneva negotiations on nuclear weapons demanded intensive consultations with the European partners, the alliance, in the opinion of many, is now stronger than ever before, and Washington and Bonn are more aware of each other's aims and preoccupations. But the new arms talks resulting from the Shultz-Gromyko meeting are to be more wide-ranging than those involving European interests alone, and Germany, as well as other West European countries, has no place between the two negotiators.

Developments in West Germany



Kohl: already won over

itself have also deflected the spotlight of world attention. The peace movement reached its high water mark in 1983 and has been steadily ebbing, with the gradual disengagement of the churches, trade unions and other broad currents of public opinion. Huge crowds, by the standards of other West European countries, still turn out for largely peaceful demonstrations against the new missiles but each time the numbers are fewer, the slogans seem more tired. Public anxieties have died down. Even the opposition Social Democrats now seem grudgingly to have accepted deployment.

At the same time a certain clumsiness in the government's handling of its once vaunted *Öspolitik* has undermined some of the authority and standing with

which Bonn spoke to both East and West. The wholly unnecessary debate on German reunification in the Bundestag in the spring provoked doubts in both Eastern Europe and, less publicly, among the western allies about the Kohl government's priorities. There has seemed to be a lack of coordination, a fuzziness about Bonn's intentions and interests. Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the foreign minister, has been having a difficult time recently convincing allies and adversaries alike that nothing has changed.

To some extent West Germany is happy no longer to be jusselled over by East and West. It believes its interests are best served by being taken in conjunction with those of its NATO partners, particularly its European allies. That is why Bonn places so much emphasis on European political unity and on a revival of the Western European Union to promote military cooperation.

The Social Democrats accuse the government of having squandered the influence and statesmanship built up by former chancellor Helmut Schmidt. Kohl asserts that influence can be exerted only when there is trust, which he has recreated. Neither he nor his colleagues in government relished the high profile his country achieved during the great debates on arms control, nor the blandishments from Moscow. If the price of a better *Westpolitik* is diminished success in *Öspolitik*, it is one he is willing to pay.

Michael Binyon

Ronald Butt

When want is just indulgence

Surrogate motherhood is another aspect of the contemporary morality against which Mrs Victoria Gillick appealed when she went to the courts to argue against the provision of contraceptive pills to under-age girls without the knowledge of their parents.

It is a subjectivist and relativist ethic encouraging each individual to be governed in his actions by personal wishes and opinions. Regard for objective moral rules or behavioural imperatives is dismissed contemptuously as "moralizing". The only acceptable moral criteria are such vague and often sentimental concepts as compassion, and the avoidance of selfishness or harm to others. But since each man is his own judge about whether his actions and inclinations pass these tests, they are no great restraint.

The concept of surrogate motherhood is the epitome of self-centredness and of the rejection of absolute moral standards for determining the status of the human being. It is characteristic of contemporary morality, with its emphasis on squeamishness and indulgence, that the prevailing argument against surrogate motherhood focuses on the commercial aspect. After the birth of a baby to a surrogate mother in Barnet, there appears to be a general agreement even among many of those otherwise prepared to accept surrogacy that the Government should rush out legislation to ban the leasing of wombs.

Yet however desirable, such legislation does not touch the heart of the matter. Even if commercial surrogacy is banned, the whole concept of surrogacy offends against the basic moral principles which have guided human behaviour not only under Christianity but under every other great theological-philosophical system — namely that each individual exists not for the convenience of others but to be honoured as a unique individual.

This is not some arbitrary edict to be accepted unreasoningly. There is all the evidence we need to tell us that the well-being of the child, and of the adult he becomes, depends on his parental and family relationships. But what child could really be happy knowing that surrogacy was the background of his birth, whether or not there was money in it? How is he to cope psychologically with the knowledge that he is genetically the child of a man who gave his seed to a woman who conceived him, and then handed him for bringing up to the father and another "mother"? Even a child who genetically belongs to both his parents who brought him up is unlikely to feel comfortable in the knowledge that his gestation and birth were by another woman, perhaps in the same family.

But who cares about that? According to the sentimental ethic of our time, all our pity is to go to the parents who "desperately" want a child to "love", not to the child.

Surrogate motherhood and the idea that a baby can be "commissioned" (the word is Lady Warnock's, who nevertheless thinks that the Barnet baby should be

handed to the unknown "poor" commissioning parents who are being kept waiting? is one further step in the reduction of babies to the status of something like pest who exist more for their owners' satisfaction than in their own right.

Abortion for the convenience of a parent who would be inconvenienced by a birth was the first step in that direction. Still, we are a kindly society in our hedonistic way and we should like everyone to be comfortable. So a child should be "wanted", a concept which gives a certain apparent altruism to the abortion of a child who is not.

Yet, because to do so would interfere with personal preferences, we do not think it right to promote the objective moral standards which alone would guarantee unwanted pregnancy. Instead, we hand underage girls the pill. Mrs Gillick's opponents will denounce that statement. It is she, they say, who risks unwanted children by seeking to deny doctors and clinics the right to prescribe the pill which would prevent births to sexually active girls under the age of consent.

But this is to camouflage the real issue in the Gillick case which is not simply that, as the Court of Appeal found, the DHSS is breaking the law with its circular allowing prescription of the pill without parental knowledge in "exceptional" cases. Nor is it even that parents' legal rights are infringed, or that the pill has medical side effects as important as its moral consequences.

What really lies behind this case is that children are proselytized in sex education, in and outside the classroom, to the belief that they are morally justified in indulging their sexual wishes provided they know the facts and take precautions against conception. If they do this, and provided their relationships are reasonably stable, they are told they are being responsible.

Of course the pressure groups who specialize in contraception for the young also offer them counselling, but it is usually of a pretty fatalistic kind. Whoever heard from them an unambiguous declaration that sexual activity at an early age is morally wrong, and carries damaging consequences? Instead, young people are invited to use their subjective judgement when they are still too immature to do so. They are told that nothing is intrinsically wrong, and are even given value-free instruction on deviant behaviour.

Moral subjectivism is thus inculcated early. Later in life, a couple unable to conceive a child or to adopt one (abortion having worked wonders at that respect) are now invited to turn to surrogate pregnancy or to the deliberate manufacture of babies who know nothing of their father, but whom the Warnock Committee would legitimize as the children of another man.

The family is mocked. How can a society so indulgent to those with the power to create and so indifferent to the real happiness of its children be called humane?

A. N. Author

He who lives by the pen . . .

In my one-but-last whinge I was going on about the burdensome duties of The Talk. The Interview and The Signing in A. N. Author's life. Forgive me if I mention them again, but a lifetime's experience of not being read cannot be shuffled off between one column and the next.

If you did read the above mentioned whinge — which I doubt you will be pleased to learn that I raise the subjects only to drop them again at once. For since I wrote it, that trinity of trials has been trumped by what is, to me at least, a new one: The Judging.

Once again we shall take the theory first, before proceeding to the practice. You find yourself back in one of the more modish provinces, scene of your most successful (and lucrative) signing. Let us plagiarize Bradbury and call it Walsmouth, whose cultural infrastructure has been so boosted by the university. We are at a discreetly classy hotel in the old part of the town, and thus at a spiritual crossroads between solid Englishness and intellectual dynamism.

The entries, which you have been assessing on the train down, have sufficient literacy not to be too much of a slog (I repeat, we are still on the theory), but not enough style or poise (the qualities always being ascribed to you) to threaten your pontifical function. Your words are magisterial but generous, and your whole tone cautiously encouraging. There is a £50 fee plus expenses, a decent meal and a write-up in the local paper.

And so to the practice. No one has heard of you, or your book (*The Soul of Mrs Saxby Sucker and Windbag*, £6.95). You are soon to discover that you are in fact a stand-in for A. N. Other-Author, of whom everybody has heard. He had to cry off because of a promotional tour of Australia, where he is "very big".

By the way, it is Wednesday night, it is raining, and you are in the village hall at Slimfold, one of those rich but still deeply rural rumps of the Home Counties, where the bus service died without a groan and the taxi drivers know a good monopoly (and a complete stranger) when they see one. Mrs Drinkwater, Hon Sec of the SLG (Slimfold Literary Guild), promised to meet you at the mainline station but didn't turn up.

Twelve blue-rinsed burghesses and a solitary old man are enfolded you in a crescent of canvases. The hall is freezing, the pipes are as cold as charity, your fingers blue, the ruses. You turn into a rigid mute. There is no alcohol.

But who needs heat? Not the Slimfold Thirteen, that's for sure; for there is the unmistakable crackle of passion's static charges, filling the whole hall from board to beam. It comes from the eyes, the nails, the tweeds, the twinsties of these lady writers, and it is directed at you.

And all because you are here to pin down, lay bare and dissect the embodiment of their innermost fantasies: private lives made public to you alone. A patient, cherished upon a table was never more vulnerable than this. As you return their gaze, wondering what on earth to say, they become for the moment William Trevor women, quietly nursing huge passions behind the lace curtains of Slimfold High Street.

There is some terrible trash here; stuff about flashing-eyed gipsies and daughters of the manse, and a brace of barely encoded revenges on philandering husbands. "Always remember you, you begin," that Dickens got 20 rejections, and Joyce. Perseverance is the key. While I quite enjoyed Maureen Sample's tale of the GP's secretary and the construction engineer on the M25, I did feel that after the, um, eighth chapter, we needed just a snatch of dialogue. . . .

The time passes and the ruses melt into a single soul. Maybe the whole episode will furnish you with a comic interlude one day. But, for the present, what to say about Mrs Drinkwater's *Eye of the Viper*, an exercise book full of lustful ruminations (yes, of course with white and runaway chamber maids, all in the most impetrate copperplate? Best to leave it out perhaps, since the author is still missing.

After the verdict, and the pallid clapping and the dented prides, La Drinkwater sails in, all horsey headwear and practical trowels — the kind of woman who has no truck with a wayward daughter.

"Mr Author, I'm so sorry I'm late," she trumpets. "Oh, that's quite all right." "I've just been on the 'phone to my mentor, a real treasure."

"Oh yes?" "Yes, Mr A. Gent. *Eye of the Viper* has been . . . (a theatrical pause here) . . . has been bought by Bills and Moon for £20,000. He's talking of film rights and America, and . . . oh, Mr Author I'm so happy I could dance."

"That's wonderful." "And I came along to say I know you've been having trouble with your sales and if there's anything at all I can do to help, any strings I can pull . . ."



P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

GENEVA REALITIES

The Soviet Union walked out of the intermediate arms control talks in December 1983. Moscow said that the Soviet delegation would not return to talk about arms control until the United States and Nato had revised the plan to install the intermediate missiles (cruise and Pershing) and to remove them completely from Europe. Yesterday Mr Gromyko and Mr Shultz announced that East-West arms talks would be resumed at a time and a place to be agreed later. The cruise and Pershing missiles remain in place, though they will obviously be part of a new negotiating package.

More recently, Moscow has been insisting on the need for President Reagan's Strategic Defence Initiative (a space-based anti-missile defence) for the twenty-first century for which a research programme has been funded) to be part of the negotiating package. Washington's response was to say that there is nothing to negotiate. However, yesterday it again became clear that the United States Administration will negotiate the product of this research, or even perhaps the pace and intensity of the latter part of the research programme. So there is evidence of American compromise too.

Full details will emerge later. The shape of the three-tier structure of the arms talks, strategic weapons between East and West, intermediate weapons concerning the European theatre, and space-based systems - will be fleshed out between now and the first practical session, but

probably not, even then, to any great precision.

This process will inevitably identify black, white and grey areas of the East-West positions on various missile systems, with their military and political significance. The important task at this stage is not to try to weigh up which detail will become the sticking point, or which the easy compromise, but to recognize that the two sides are discussing their differences from the shared standpoint that they have differences.

There would have been no point in continuing to bargain about whether or not to talk. That has, unfortunately, been the position of the Soviet Union since the walk-out of 1983. It has taken President Reagan's categorical election victory and the solidarity of the Nato alliance behind him to convince Moscow that such tactics may be able to call out the crowds and their placards in West Europe, but that they have little influence beyond.

One can make allowances in Moscow for some of these misjudgments, but not all. There has been a change of leadership. A perplexed bureaucracy may be beginning (perhaps?) to cope with the perceived consequences of a long historic decline in its power relationship vis-à-vis the United States. The same bureaucracy may have received the wrong kind of signals from America's allies, the official and the unofficial, if they confine themselves to the usual measurements of public opinion.

The Geneva agreement is an

agreement to talk, without prejudice. It is thus a good agreement because it has no illusions about the political background against which the awe-inspiring technicalities of the missiles - symbols of a shared insecurity - have to be discussed.

The substantive talks will start from the undisputed assumption that there is an antagonism between East and West. There is. The more clearly the system of Soviet Communism is scrutinized, the more clearly emerges the sad conclusion that it is inherently, irredeemably antagonistic to the varied concepts of liberal democracy which have been espoused in the West. And even more sombre a conclusion is that this antagonism appears to go so deep that the systems cannot, certainly in any stable sense, coexist.

The negotiators thus have to see if they can devise a system of managed instability at the nuclear end of the arsenal. The West has so far failed to embrace the idea of "unpeaceful coexistence" because perhaps we do not want to believe in the harshness of the incompatibility, whereas the Soviet mind is taught to accept it from the cradle. The foundation stone of these arms talks must be a recognition that such an incompatibility exists and that the process of arms limitation will always be infected by it. It is a risky business since it applies not just in the nuclear theatre, but in every disputed area. So we have to make certain that the Soviet Union does not acquire the fruits of war without the risks.

THE BUDGET BRIEF

Judging by recent years, the Treasury's country weekend think-in on the Budget will be formative. On past experience, the strategy drawn up by Treasury ministers and their top advisers this coming weekend, in the library at Cheyenne (the late Lord Stanhope's under-used gift to the nation), will be translated into Mr Nigel Lawson's second Budget speech.

Of course, the financial numbers will change between now and March 19, present uncertainties in the currency and oil markets have not made the Treasury's forecasting job very easy. Details will change under pressure from this or that lobby group in Parliament, the City or industry, or even, perhaps, at the behest of other cabinet ministers. But with the Prime Minister's tax-cutting targets already before them, Mr Lawson and his team can be expected to shape the Budget in the next few days.

The Chancellor has told us already he plans "a budget for jobs". We have heard similar intentions from his predecessor, and still the unemployment figures have climbed. But the phrase provides a perspective for the judgement of the Government's economic policy in general, and the placing of its Budget decisions within the frame.

Since last summer, we have gained one important piece of information about government policy - one, indeed, that the Government was perhaps learning only a step ahead of its observers. This is that it is genuinely prepared to let the exchange rate fall, and care only to convince the financial markets that monetary growth is not out of control. During 1984, it is

true, the exchange rate has not actually fallen much faster than it did in 1982 (10-12 per cent, in trade-weighted terms); but in 1982 sterling was still "correcting" its earlier over-valuation, so that it was not possible to draw long-term conclusions about policy.

The waters are, indeed, still muddy. Mrs Thatcher's indifference might not survive the psychological blow of parity with the dollar. The markets are, meanwhile, less than wholly convinced of monetary control, which is why interest rates remain under threat. They have some grounds for scepticism. But they do also appear to understand that so long as the money numbers remain tolerable, the Government will take advantage of any easing in the pressures on the pound to cut interest rates rather than to seek currency appreciation.

This is not an easy situation to manage; which is precisely why it can be argued with force that Britain should seek the partial stability of the European Monetary System, and manage its interest rates accordingly. But having chosen to stay loose, Mr Lawson's readiness to allow the pound to sink shows he is genuinely ready to put jobs before caution, and should be applauded by many of those critics who conveniently forget their own devaluation policies.

A falling exchange rate is not, of course, an unmitigated blessing: there are precious few of those in economics. It is not a cure-all for industry's ills. But businessmen reaping Britain's 20 per cent rise in company profits this past year can give some thanks to a lower pound, while exporters selling at today's dollar exchange rate

should be able to make a killing in the world's largest and richest economy. Moreover, a weak pound has done less damage to inflation or to inflationary expectations than past experience has suggested; this is a benefit which cannot be relied on, but a little credit for our good fortune so far must go to the Government's counter-inflation strategy.

Judged against this background, it makes less sense to argue that the Chancellor should direct his budget entirely towards higher profits from the output of British industries. What he must clearly do is increase the throughput of extra demand into extra jobs. Mr Lawson is right to believe this limits the case for capital intensive public investment, but the argument for labour-intensive expenditure needs to be explored.

Like excess government borrowing, the bill for neglected maintenance will have to be met by our children. But Mr Lawson is also right to believe that tax policy has a vital part in encouraging employment though he has yet to formulate this in a way which carries conviction, even with his own parliamentary party. Tax cuts in the Budget should not be tossed out in the vague encouragement of "incentives", but should be very specifically targeted on specific groups of discouraged employers and discouraged job-seekers.

This requires a greater understanding of the microeconomic impact of income tax and national insurance than the Chancellor has so far taken the trouble to display; and there is plenty of meat on this bone for his team to worry away at during their Cheyenne weekend.

INDIAN MISSION

Now that he has won the biggest mandate in India's independent history, the eyes of his countrymen are turned upon Rajiv Gandhi to see how he will use it. It is an expectation and impetus India that awaits his first actions. For the moment, the euphoria of the victory has captivated the country. But, if he is to maintain this spirit and sentiment, Rajiv Gandhi will have to act quickly, publicly, and determinedly in the sure and certain knowledge that promises betrayed would rapidly degenerate into frustration and rage.

Among the first issues the government will have to turn its attention to are the communal riots which predate Rajiv Gandhi's election and continue to fester. Of these, the Punjab crisis is the worst. The November riots which occurred in the wake of Mrs Gandhi's assassination have added to the problem. As a result, a local Punjab difficulty has today become a nationwide Sikh crisis. What this means for the government is that it must now simultaneously tackle the political demands of the Sikhs and Akali Party as well as the wider problem of instilling confidence within the shaken Sikh community.

There are already signs in Delhi that Mr Gandhi is prepared to take on the first task. But in itself, that will not be

sufficient. Until he also appoints a formal commission of inquiry into the November massacres, with freedom to indict both the police and Congress Party Workers for their role in the troubles, he will not be able to signal his seriousness to the Sikhs. And in that event, his plan to solve the Punjab problem will come unstuck. Worse still, his refusal to appoint an inquiry could easily fuel Sikh communalism.

Effective measures to handle the Sikh issue, and in due course the lingering dispute in Assam, will certainly clear the major debris left behind by Indira Gandhi. There can be no doubt that Indians voted for Rajiv Gandhi to end such deep crises. Yet, in terms of what they expect from him, that would only be half the work done. The other half is possibly the more important. It is the challenge of pushing India into the modern age and realizing the enticing and evocative imagery of the future the prime minister himself used in his campaign.

To this end there can be no better way for Mr Gandhi than to start by attacking India's legendary bureaucracy, inefficiency, and corruption. For 20 years, this triumvirate of ills has stifled India's economic performance, eroded its moral stature, and undermined its

governments efforts to achieve meaningful social reform.

To tackle this, Mr Gandhi must begin at the economic level by relaxing the entire system of the rules, regulations, licences and permits which hinder development whilst creating opportunities for malfeasance and corruption. At the same time, he must act at the level of government as well. The sheer proliferation of offices, procedures and personnel makes for inefficiency and slowness. A slimmer and tighter government would also be more accountable and responsive to public demands.

Yet none of this would really make a difference unless Mr Gandhi can firmly grasp the political dimension of the problem. Politicians must be seen and believed to be clean, but in India, the reverse is commonly held to be true.

It would seem that these burdens that now lie on Rajiv Gandhi's inexperienced shoulders are indeed heavy. Yet in his first week in office he has lived up to the faith invested in him. For already he has dispensed with some of the least regarded members of the coterie his mother had kept around her. But there is still much to be done. And if he is to break the mould she bequeathed he will have to steadfastly maintain this sense of mission for five long years.

Premature babies turned away

From Professor E. O. R. Reynolds

Sir, Mr Seitchell's experience (January 3) of telephoning 14 hospitals while trying to find a vacant cot in a neonatal intensive care unit for a premature baby is, sadly, all too common. The neonatal unit of University College Hospital, which is a regional referral centre, has to refuse admission to between five and 10 premature or ill babies each week - approximately the same number as are admitted.

In its follow-up report on perinatal and neonatal mortality, published in July, 1984, the Social Services Committee of the House of Commons drew attention to the long-standing inadequacy of provision of facilities for the intensive care of babies born in this country. The committee recommended (paragraph 50) that "the DHSS gather information to enable a judgment to be made of the scale of the problem of refusals of admission to neonatal intensive care units."

The Government, in replying (Cmd 9371, para 7), stated that the collection of data from each designated intensive-care unit, figures simply based on the number of enquiries received about admissions or refusals would be misleading, as a number of units may be approached by a referring doctor before he decides upon a most suitable one.

Mr Seitchell clearly did not telephone all those hospitals merely to identify a suitable one. The Government appears to be trying to obscure a very serious shortfall in provision by the National Health Service of proper care for the most frail and vulnerable of its patients, who certainly cannot speak up for themselves.

Yours faithfully,
OSMUND REYNOLDS,
University College London,
School of Medicine,
Department of Paediatrics,
The Rayne Institute,
University Street, WC1,
January 8.

Famine in Africa

From Mr T. M. Unwin

Sir, Dr Potter's letter (January 5) is unrealistic. He says that money "being poured heedlessly" into "African food relief" should be used to repair roads and rail links which "have been permitted to fall into such states of disrepair" that they are practically useless. Does he not realise that aid cannot be a substitute for government functions?

The governments responsible for permitting the atrophy of infrastructure assets are plainly incapable of running and maintaining them effectively, so that even if they were put right by foreign contractors paid from aid funds they would soon revert to their present condition.

And another point: for road and rail to be used to move privately-owned surplus produced from one place to another presupposes the existence of a functioning trading structure. In many places this has been killed by political adventurism and by banishment *hors de commerce* of erstwhile merchant communities.

In short: if people are not to suffer - here or anywhere - there is no alternative to good government. The days when this was found in many parts of Africa are over.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
TOM UNWIN,
The Fort, Milverton, Somerset.

Striking wrong note

From Mr Julian Lloyd Webber

Sir, I suggest that Gerald Moore's letter to *Classical Music* (January 3) was rather too loud too soon. It was apparently prompted by a review of my book, *Travels With My Cello*, in that publication by a critic who regrettably chose to ignore my carefully considered words on, for example, British music colleges, beginning a career as a soloist, the state of British music abroad and, most important of all, the immense stamina, dedication and courage required throughout a soloist's life, and concentrated instead on the least significant topics in the book - such as "the two brief paragraphs granted to 'soloists' eccentricities'".

No, I don't wash the fingers of my left hand (fingers, please note, not the whole of it) but I am quite sure that Gerald Moore, of his own considerable travels, will have come across many more exciting idiosyncrasies than that.

By the way, *Who's Who* is unfortunately out of date now as Hawkes, the first of my two turtles, died recently so only Boosey remains - but my rubber gloves do him proud.

Yours sincerely,
JULIAN LLOYD WEBBER,
250 Kings Road, SW3,
January 7.

Nuclear deterrence

From Mr Peter Foster

Sir, Your leading article on defence and deterrence (December 28) rightly pilloried the hypocrisy of much European criticism of American policy. Shivers rejecting a spine - to adapt a splendid phrase declared unparliamentary by the New Zealand Speaker - would aptly describe the behaviour of some Europeans towards the United States.

While thus sympathising with the tone of the first three quarters of the article, I was nevertheless baffled by the logic of its conclusion. Why should a negotiated balance of strategic nuclear forces, preferably at much lower levels, be an unrealistic or undesirable goal?

Of course it would have to take account of differences in force structures and other complexities too often overlooked by the "peace lobby". But if successfully achieved, would be the incompatibility, as you seemed to imply, with "other indices of power", presumably

Long-term strategy for countryside

From the Chairman of the Countryside Commission, the Countryside Commission for Scotland and the Nature Conservancy Council

Sir, The three official bodies which we chair have never before felt such a strong tide of public opinion flowing in support of our statutory objectives of landscape and nature conservation and countryside recreation and access. In particular, during 1984, we have been made sharply aware of two interrelated topics which are likely to dominate the countryside debate during the foreseeable future.

The first concerns agriculture: in the wake of the first moves to reshape the common agricultural policy the industry has shown itself ready to accept that it will in future be driven increasingly by socio-economic forces rather than by technology and that new standards of efficiency will have to be fashioned and accepted. This is welcome, but inevitably there is a general feeling of anxiety and uncertainty about the paths which will have to be taken in this volatile period.

Where, for example, will the more marginal cereal grower turn under further economic pressure? Clearly the scope for alternative arable cropping is minimal and the constraints on milk are painfully obvious. So should he turn to beef, already in vast European surplus, or to lamb production, now threatened with oversupply?

Or perhaps some of his land may pass out of agriculture altogether and into trees? But is there any place at all in the national interest, for commercial forestry in the marginal upland lowlands as well as in the fens? If so, a new structure of incentives to replace the annual cash flow from farm production would be required.

With other considerations, such as animal welfare, waste disposal and food quality, influence farming systems to an ever-greater degree? What patterns of production will be needed to keep the industry solvent and are these likely to be more, or less, inimical to social and environmental interests?

These questions have a special relevance to the uplands of Britain, where the economy has been propped up for a long time by special measures unrelated to market forces. In order to maintain jobs, people and services it is

desirable for the state to provide support, given the bearish outlook for agriculture, on a steadily increasing scale? This is a question which may have to be posed outside the uplands if policies to curtail food surpluses impose a steady retreat of agricultural resources into the more favoured farming areas.

The second issue concerns landscape and wildlife conservation whose lobbyists have shown that they can wield political clout, command the attention of the media and secure influence with ministers and Parliament. The challenge is therefore much more than guidance on agricultural policy: it is to provide a vision of a longer-term structure for the countryside as a whole which acknowledges the depth and intensity of public concern over conservation, recreation and access as well as the needs of rural employment, dollar-earning tourism, forestry and the many other elements in a multi-use countryside.

This vision will not come about by Whitehall departments acting in isolation, however enlightened their policies. It requires a broader strategy for the countryside, with revised priorities for public expenditure in the economic, social and environmental fields.

The preparation of such a strategy should be put in train soon if the surging pace of events is not to overtake the scope for longer-term policymaking. The task will, of course, be formidable, and subject to the vagaries of EEC policies and other factors outside national control. But the essence of our message is that Government needs to weld together the different strands of rural policymaking with a firm hand; and, within two or three years, to give a clear lead for the countryside which creates confidence and discourages the faulty land-use decisions which will otherwise stem from short-term response to short-term and disparate policies.

Yours faithfully,
DEREK BARBER, Chairman,
Countryside Commission,
DAVID NICKSON, Chairman,
Countryside Commission for Scotland,
W. H. N. WILKINSON, Chairman,
Nature Conservancy Council,
c/o Countryside Commission,
John Power House,
Crescent Place,
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

Hilda Murrell case

From Dr P. R. Acland

Sir, I write concerning speculation in certain newspapers about the Hilda Murrell case. Such speculation appears now to cast suspicion on the validity of the post-mortem reports as well as the other allegations of impropriety in the police investigations.

Although I receive a retainer from the Home Office, I am jealous of my independence as a pathologist and I consider myself answerable only to Her Majesty's Coroner and the judiciary.

With respect to my involvement in the case, I carried out the post-mortem examination to the best of my ability. I was given every assistance by the police and was not denied any information which I deemed relevant to help me in my inquiry. I was not approached or influenced by any member of any Secret Service organization. I was not aware of any involvement by such persons in the case. I do not believe either that any of the involved police officers were so influenced.

I read my report at the inquest and was thoroughly cross-examined not only by the Coroner but also by a solicitor instructed by the nephew.

Nobel 'brain drain'

From the British Ambassador to Sweden

Sir, In his letter of January 5 about Nobel prizes, the Treasurer of the Royal Society refers to the "brain drain" of the sixties. Dr Cesar Milstein, one of this year's distinguished laureates for medicine, first came to Cambridge in the fifties from his native Argentina through a British Council scholarship. I was proud to remember this at the recent Nobel banquet in Stockholm.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD PARSONS,
British Embassy,
Skarpogatan 6-8,
115 27 Stockholm, Sweden.

Taxing lump sums

From Mr P. Richer

Sir, The Chairman of the Life Offices' Association wrote (December 15) that to tax lump-sum benefits "would be totally inequitable". Presumably he believes that we are already taxed enough before

I did not avoid or refuse to answer any questions. The reason for the second post-mortem was also explained at the inquest - there is nothing sinister in this: it is usual for the defence to be given the opportunity to have an independent pathologist.

When, after several months, no defendant had been "apprehended", the Director of Public Prosecutions thought it prudent to have a second post-mortem which could be available for a potential defendant so that the body could be released for appropriate funeral arrangements. In fact, the second pathologist kindly notified me that he agreed with all my findings and conclusions.

I am not sure what else I can do to satisfy the concern of the family. With the permission of the Coroner I am quite happy to discuss the case with any pathologist nominated by the family.

I don't know who killed Miss Murrell, but I have a strong suspicion that some twopenny halfpenny thief is gloating over a pint of beer in a pub not many miles from Shrewsbury about all this media interest.

Yours faithfully,
P. R. ACLAND,
20 Clarendon Road, Edgbaston,
Birmingham, W. Midlands.

Putting our savings into life insurance

Yet for Mr Field there are clearly taxes and taxes. The majority of life offices, of which his own company is a noted exemplar, impose on beneficiaries their own species of withholding tax by retaining interest on the proceeds of life policies earned by them for a period between the death of a policyholder and the settlement of the claim. The total of these retentions by the industry is probably around £13 million per annum.

The beneficiaries "taxed" in this way do not see the policy moneys as "providing start-up capital for new businesses": they are in the main widows and orphans and, what is more, elderly widows for whom every penny counts. There were 3.2 million widows in 1983 and nine out of ten were pensioners.

Totally inequitable? Yours etc.
PERCY RICHER,
Upton Britton & Lumb,
Solicitors,
9 Leigham Hall Parade,
Streatham High Road, SW16,
December 26.

governments, European and American, as well as of responsible newspapers, to show public opinion how improved security through negotiation can be reconciled with, indeed is an essential part of, a policy of collective defence based upon hard-headed understanding of the threat posed by a fundamentally hostile superpower.

It is by this criterion that American research into new technologies, together with American negotiating strategies, should be judged. To assume that no kind of arms control is possible or desirable would be as obscurantist as to insist that the future of the planet must depend ad infinitum on a crude balance of terror frozen in the technologies of mutual destruction developed in the late twentieth century.

Yours faithfully,
PETER FOSTER,
Rye Cottage,
Abinger Common,
Near Dorking,
Surrey,
December 28.



JANUARY 10 1806
[NELSON'S FUNERAL]
Nelson died from his wounds received at the battle of Trafalgar on October 21 1805. The Times of November 7 carried the news of the victory and the tragedy. Nelson's body was preserved in spirits and brought to England in his flagship Victory. It lay in state at Greenwich in the Painted Hall before being taken up the river to St Paul's on January 9 1806. There after the service Nelson was buried in the crypt.

During the solemn service which was performed in the Choir, the evening drew on apace, and lights became necessary. Accordingly, in consequence of a most excellent previous arrangement, a great number of torches were lighted up in the Choir, both below, and in the galleries. At the same time, the vast space under the dome was illuminated (we understand for the first time since its construction), to a sufficient degree for the solemn purposes of the occasion, by a temporary lantern, if we may so call it, the contrivance of Mr. WYATT, on the spur of the moment. It consisted of an octagonal framing of wood, boarded on the outside, and finished at the top by eight angles, and at bottom by a smaller octagon. This was painted black, and upon it were disposed about 130 patent lamps. It was suspended by a rope from the centre of the lantern, and, when drawn up, it gave as much light as was wanted in the Church. There were some other lights placed in the aisles, but these were of no great consequence... A bier, covered with black velvet, and ornamented with gold fringe and tassels, was placed in the Choir, and upon which the coffin was laid during Service there. A great funeral canopy of state was borne over the coffin by six Admirals, of black velvet, supported by six small pillars covered with the same material, and crowned by six plumes of black ostrich feathers. The canopy was fringed with black, and decorated with devices of festoons and symbols of his Lordship's victories, and his arms, crest, and coronet, in gold. This canopy was removed from over the body a little before it was lowered, that the splendour of the ornaments of the coffin might be rendered more visible to the spectators. There was an excellent contrivance for letting down the body into the grave, respecting which, from the great weight of the different coffins in which it is enclosed, there was a considerable difference of opinion. Whatever may be the merit of any other plan, the mode which was adopted seems not merely unobjectionable, but deserving of great praise. A bier, similar to that just described, rose from the oblong aperture under the dome, for the purpose of supporting the Coffin. This bier was raised by invisible machinery, and appeared to be totally concealed below the pavement of the church. This contrivance prevented all those disagreeable and disgusting circumstances which too often occur at the funerals of the Great, arising from the weight of the coffins, and the comparative weakness or want of energy of the persons who are called upon to carry their superiors to internment...

After the service was over, GARTER proclaimed the style, as usual, and the Controller, Steward and Treasurer of the deceased Lord, broke their staves and gave the pieces to GARTER, who threw them into the grave, in which also the flag of the Victory being furled up the aisles, were deposited. The honest man, however, who bore into the church the ensigns of the Victory, desirous of retaining some mementoes of their great and favourite Commander, tore off a considerable part of the largest flag, of which most of us believe, all of them acquired a small portion; though few other persons were able to get any of it.

Upon this celebration it seems hardly necessary to offer a word further, when we consider the general feeling of the nation on the subject. The funeral of a Hero who has achieved, in the service of his country, the greatest naval exploits that were ever performed by any Conqueror that has yet existed, was attended by the seven sons of his Sovereign, by the chief Nobility, Gentry, and Merchants of the empire, and by many thousands of subjects of all classes, with an universal, an unmitigated, and heartfelt sense of grief for his loss, but at the same time with a glorious exultation in the deeds by which his life has been adorned, and his death consecrated to immortal honours. We trust that this great Defender of Britain, this "dear Son of Memory" and "great Hero of Fame" has lived for posterity, and that while the name of NELSON is remembered, we shall never want those who are animated by his zeal, and are ardently desirous of imitating his brilliant example.

The ring cycle

From Dr Peter A. Lanyon-Orghill

Sir, Mr Nahum's thought as to whether friends will bid against each other (December 27) may lead to unfortunate results unless previous arrangements have been made.

Many years ago an uncle of mine with a distinguished record of service in India spotted a set of pleasant watercolours of Burmese river scenes in an auction room. Being told that the expected price was only a modest sum, he attended the sale and, after a long battle with some unknown bidder in the crowd, secured the pictures for considerably more than he intended.

Taking the booty home, he proudly displayed the pictures to his wife, only to discover that she had been the opponent, having herself seen the picture she had planned to give them to him as a surprise!

Yours faithfully,
P. A. LANYON-ORGHILL,
Lanyon College,
16 Avondale Road,
Exmouth,
Devon,
December 27.

Age of chivalry

From Miss Nancy-Mary Goodall

Sir, In a London Tube the other day an elderly man next to me rose and offered his seat to a hefty young man in his twenties, who looked alarmed, backed away and found a seat further on for himself and the baby strapped to his chest.

The true English gentleman sank back, a little nonplussed. Yours faithfully,
NANCY-MARY GOODALL,
29 Arncliffe Road,
East Molesey,
Surrey,
December 28.

THE ARTS

PUBLISHING

'I'm obsessed by books in all their forms': Caroline Moorehead meets Tom Rosenthal, a publisher who still loves the very smell of his product

Respect and affection for the real writer

Thomas Gabriel Rosenthal, better known as Tom, publisher, critic and broadcaster, but above all things publisher of the book-loving, convivial kind, discovered the *metier* he clearly finds extremely congenial almost exactly a quarter of a century ago. "I can genuinely say," he announces - and much of what he says seems to come out in the shape of these rounded, considered announcements - "that I'm obsessed by books in all their forms: reading them, buying them, smelling them - and publishing them." He even met his literary agent wife Ann through books, at the annual Frankfurt Book Fair.

Like the best of all working lives, he found his "by design and accident". Design took shape at 13 when, the son of a German refugee academic, he discovered a delight in the antiquarian bookshops of Cambridge and began what is now a much-loved collection of first editions of D. H. Lawrence, "with variants" - the ultimate in the bibliomaniac's disease - and the complete Menesuch Press, the *ne plus ultra* of publishing of the spacious age.

Accident intervened later, when the Cambridge Appointment Board, having told him that, as a young man with no private income and no family connections, he had no future in publishing, sent him in error details of a job as assistant to the sales manager of Thames and Hudson, and against older and more experienced candidates he got it. To these two benevolent forces must be added the Army, which played its part by providing him with such a "wildly enjoyable" time as an artillery officer in Malta that, once National Service was over, he had acquired a taste for action and a reluctance to settle into more soporific university pursuits.

The combination of all three took him at 24 to a publishing house presided over by a husband and wife, Walter and Eva Neurath, who were both exacting and encouraging of their promising trainees. To those who did well, nothing was said. The muddlers and "slodgers" were "re-educated". Evidently Rosenthal thrived, for by 31 he was made managing director of the international company and five years later he had moved on to pursue his real desire: to publish fiction as managing director of Secker and Warburg. He is able to look back with satisfaction on a career marked out without bloodshed. "One of the things I am proud of is that in a phenomenally bitchy and extraordinarily ruthless world my modest success was never



achieved at anyone else's expense." Fred Warburg, whom he succeeded, was 72. Nor has ruthlessness since been required of him. Recently, as his position at Secker and Warburg, by now absorbed into a larger publishing conglomerate, was becoming increasingly like big business, he slipped off to join André Deutsch, with whom he is now co-managing director, co-chairman and co-owner, a state of affairs designed to suit the career of literary gentlemen he took up a quarter of a century ago and he intends to follow to

its end. "Subject to accident, I have attended my last board meeting." Along the way, Rosenthal has come to personify the quintessential publisher. He is genial, somewhat round, with a heavy black beard; he wears bright red shirts and brighter blue bowties and waistcoats with his suits. His terrace house in north London is a book collector's idea of perfection: every wall covered, and a study more library than office, with sections and a catalogue and a fine pair of library steps. Where there are not books there are pictures, Piranesi and modern oil

paintings, and tapes of Mozart, Verdi and Puccini. With his two sons, he goes to the opera and to cricket matches.

Authors find him compelling, and sometimes a little bemusing. With affection, not malice, one spoke of an ego so immense that it was like an Empire armchair that he carried around with him and for which people were constantly having to find room. He added that he was one of the best publishers in the business and that he minded greatly about good writing.

Of himself, Rosenthal says firmly that he is an optimist, an intellectual to his finger-tips, a believer that to be a real publisher you have also to be a businessman, and that to be one at all you have to excel at editing and selecting books. He approves of book prizes in that they can bring recognition to authors who might not otherwise get it, and, as a firm advocate of the need and value of hard work, does not regret having to work ever harder to prosper. "The very real problems facing publishers today are definitely government-induced," he declares. "Institution and education spending is down and down. Though the rich are getting richer they only have so much reading time. And of course the current threat of VAT being added to books is a nightmare."

"I haven't yet failed to publish any single book I passionately wanted to, but the decision-making is more painful all the time. Last year's good book could be today's marginal, and yesterday's marginal today's impossible. An author is going to have to have outstanding talent to be published for the first time."

Is the publishing world of the Eighties very different from the one he so wished to enter? In Rosenthal's view it would seem to have altered reassuringly little: the idea of running a publishing firm for money remains a joke, the pressure for the printed word is just as great, and publishing still has its fair share of eccentricities. Only as a collector does he feel production to have become "quite disgusting". "Perhaps 70 to 80 per cent of the really interesting books getting published still come from privately and independently owned houses. As long as they prosper we have nothing to fear. The only thing is that a lot of publishers tend to forget they are primarily there to sustain, nurture and sell writers. Without them there would be no publishers. I may be more flamboyant than the next man, but I do know where my bread is buttered."



"Tatler Time": glitterati gossip does not change

Theatre

Meet Me at the Gate King's Head

Revue is normally thought of as being a rapid succession of "turns" - songs, dance and sketches - with a topical and satirical air. But the revue *Meet Me at the Gate*, which is a magical history tour of the one that started it all, the Gate.

In this month of the fiftieth anniversary of its first revue, when a then unknown performer called Hermione Gingold stepped out, the old things swing open again. The lights go down, the piano plays and the veteran actor and Gate alumnus Billy Milton takes us through this life of the theatre where the "fringe" spirit was born.

Revue began before the Gate. On the one hand it could edge towards variety and become the shows of Ziegfeld in 1920s New York and spectacular of Nesbitt at the London Palladium of the 1930s and 1940s; in its vainglorious moments it could "never close" at the Windmill and reveal more in *Oh Calcutta!*. But "intimate" revue is credited as the creation of the great impresario C.B. Cochran. It was his work in the inter-war years at the Pavilion and the Ambassadors, and that of Norman Marshall at the Gate, that established the pattern of the revue as we know it.

It is not surprising then that some of this vintage material has not matured with age. But the writer of many of those first sketches and lyrics, Diana Morgan, who has also devised this compilation, has found enough material that has the freshness of the evening. The Ken-

sington Girls may now be known as Sloane Rangers, the cine-pantomime art-film buff and the new dance crazes be more body-popping than the "knock out".

What comes through its thirty skits on human frailty, love, loneliness and tilts at the glitterati is a glorious feeling for the period, even to one who was not even a twinkle in anyone's eye at the time. Here are the rams, the mediums (ghosts will be ghosts), the wealthy south-coast harridans, the mad aunts and the eager public schoolboys of a Britain in the uneasy calm between the Depression and the Second World War.

Perhaps it was true of the times, but judging by this, revue then seems to have been much better at dealing with the essential zaniness of British eccentricity than weightier issues. Numbers like "Salome Wouldn't Dance" and "The Yodelling Goldfish" take off, but one feels great unease at 1930s unemployment being cheapened into a sketch about the collapse of a dirty postcard salesman's trade.

Just at the end though, as the feeling is growing that intellect might as well have been left at home, war looms and it gains some sinew. A satire on gas attacks sends up the kind of government nonsense that in the nuclear age suggests we "duck and cover". Then a siren wails, heralding the air raid that was to blow the roof off the Gate, closing it forever.

The company might not be the modern equivalents of the Masons, Morleys, Robsons, Ustinovs and Leighs who once graced the Gate, but they are versatile performers exuberantly rehoning the edge on the material. Overall though, it remains a night to meet for unashamed nostalgia.

Robert Page

Concerts

Stockhausen's appearances still deceptive

BBCSO/Eötvös
Barbican/Radio 3

So Stockhausen is back in town. The uniform is what it was 15 years ago: olive safari jacket over a white Mexican shirt and off-white crumpled trousers. Even the music is what it was 15 years ago, for this BBC festival "Music and Machines" is a retrospective almost exclusively of works written between 1960 and 1970, and yet appearances are deceptive. In manner, giving his introductory talk, the composer is slower than before but also less dogmatic, more genial. He seems to be passing from young manhood into grandfatherhood, without stopping at maturity. The music, too, is on the move.

When *Mixtur* was last done in London, by Boulez a dozen years ago, it seemed a hurried sketch of how orchestral sounds could be disguised by electronics, the work's ring modulators producing effects not unlike those obtained from a miniature wireless. To Tuesday night's performance the radio analogy still applied: it is part of the nature of the piece that one should feel oneself to be straining to hear through it the sounds of jazz bands, instrumental soloists, string ensembles and, perhaps above all, speech. But, besides appearing a distortion of those real worlds, *Mixtur* impressed itself this time as a score of rich beauty and elegance, a metal rose of music.

Partly, no doubt, this was because Peter Eötvös was more

generous to the work in his tempos and phrasing than Boulez had been; partly, too, the effect was helped by a crisp, efficient sound system. But *Mixtur* has grown, too, in other ways. Now it can be heard to foreshadow aspects of later orchestral works: the wind of *Trans*, lowering and struggling to be heard, or the instrumental scenes of *Michael's Journey Around the World*. And it is because the old works contain the new that this festival is relieved of seeming an historical exercise.

What is also going to help, if the series proceeds as it has begun, is the quality of later performance. Stockhausen has nearly always been able to present his works under the best possible circumstances, and, as a veteran musical cliché: the flute as a winging bird.

Benjamin, one of these "recitals" featured composer, was also included in the Finnish pianist Tuja Hakila's programme, but this lady seemed too preoccupied simply with playing the notes of his monumental Piano Sonata. Miss Hakila's Debussy served only to remind one that dull pedantry does not always produce accuracy. Yet she had started with blistering, jubilant performances of two Lutoslawski Studies.

Sharing the same bill, the Manchester-based Marini Trombone Ensemble offered two premieres. Michael Maxwell's *Incantations* proved to be an arid exercise in pattern-repetition, but Edward Gregson's Sonata for Four Trombones had a characteristic suave craftsmanship. Its quiltwork construction just about kept tabs on several distinctive ideas, notably some antiphonal, fanfare-like duets involving each player's use of three different mutes (their insertion caused more problems than anything else) and a splendid passage of Penderecki-style raspberries.

The Marinis are good musicians: tuneful and well coordinated. Their finale was *Bobus* by the Swedish trombonists Jan Bark and Folk Rabe - an irresistible music-theatre piece stringing together every juvenile antic that trombonists do offstage.

Richard Morrison

Mackay/Parsons
Wigmore Hall

Since she won what was then the Society of West End Theatres opera award three years ago, Ann Mackay has been heard in a wide range of repertory, from Snow White for

children to Handel opera and oratorio. On Tuesday night she brought her considerable artistry and engaging personality to an assortment of German lieder which, with the subtle and sympathetic partnership of Geoffrey Parsons at the piano, conveyed a wealth of delight to her audience.

The soprano has long had an instinct for Richard Strauss, and in a second half devoted to his songs she sounded at her most accomplished. The three "Ophelia" songs were less than fully exposed, but she added a warm feeling to fresher familiar favourites like "Morgen" and "Ständchen" - an appealing sense of humour for the verbal inflexions of "Hat gesagt" and "Schlechtes Wetter" and a suggestion of personal pride in the sentiments of "Mutterland-lei".

In musical terms, her earlier group of Hugo Wolf songs conveyed a deeper perception, from the quiet absorption of the first "Mignon" song to a perfectly poised octave leap at the end of the third, "So last mich scheinen", of melting vocal beauty. Then followed "Kennst du das Land", which challenged memories of Elisabeth Schwarzkopf in its tonal ardour, and Mr Parsons helped to make the change from the grandeur of this song to the delicacy of "Auch kleine Dinge" with exemplary skill.

The setting of "Kennst du" contrasted well with its forerunner in a Schubert group, where the song's repeated refrain of "Dahin!" was in need of some extra urgency. The Rückert verses of "Lachen und Weinen" were phrased to suggest a girlish lightness of heart, but the stillness of thought the singer brought to Goethe in "Nähe des Geliebten" lingered long after the song ended, as did the blend of voice and piano throughout.

Noël Goodwin

Television

The allure of gossip

"Wouldn't recognize a scruple if one fell on his head," says Neville Lytton's editor of his gossip columnist. One might think it was a prerequisite for the job. It is a human failing to gossip about human failings, and gossip columnists are the high priests of an unfortunate propensity.

Thames's Lytton's Diary, a six-part series with Peter Bowles as the diarist, last night began the task of making a sort of hero of one of them. Fleet Street seems impossible for television to capture - incompatible neuroses perhaps - but this effort, written by a journalist, Ray Connolly, was less wide of the mark than usual.

I noted that Mr Bowles, in pursuit of a story, did leave a full glass on the counter, which is rather unprofessional, and he is rather old for the species. They tend with the odd, obdurate exception to vanish early, and unannounced; but, these quibbles apart, Mr Bowles should saunter well.

He conveys the right impression of venerable all through which passes in some places for sophistication. The plot, which will not be all that important, concerned a Press takeover by an Australian tycoon. It was improbable but probably got by. Not the real thing, but that is unrealistic.

Mr Bowles's old sparring partner from the manor, Penelope Keith, a television monument, appeared before him on the same channel in Stanley Price's *Movieland*, adapted by the author in six parts from his successful stage comedy. With her in this familiar saga of moving house was the excellent Ronald Pickup. Both did their monumental best but *Movieland* looks set to stagger.

BBC2's *Real Lives* was in Liverpool with *Pushers*, a programme about the heroin business in "Smack City" and the assiduous efforts of the police to combat it. *Pushers* and users are often the same people, making money to feed their habit. The vicious circle appears to join up again as fast as the police puncture it.

It was a dramatic film for the most part with an extremely charismatic and indefatigable policeman, Det Con Brendan Farrell, leading door-busting raids and giving a vigorous commentary. What it did not do was tell us who pushed to the pushers and how. Some make large sums of money but are obviously the smaller fry at the end of a chain, a point neglected in the absorption with the mechanics.

Lynsey Beauchamp is Canadian-born, one eighth American Indian, "other parts" French, German and English," says the *Radio Times*. She is the heroine of Anna of the Five Towns, dramatized by John Harvey from Arnold Bennett's novel in four parts for BBC2.

It was no surprise, considering her polyglot origin, that she easily mastered Porters' dialect, but most impressive in this instalment was the diligence in re-creating the 1890s atmosphere.

Whether that will ultimately compensate for a none-too-compelling story, or whether Miss Beauchamp will manage such dramatic peaks as there are, remains to be seen but there is nostalgia in those Victorian fashions and rooms with everything draped to allow bacteria maximum manoeuvre. Emrys James, as Anna's miserly Dad, and Edward Kelsey, chapel-rigorous but commercially loose, were also diverting.

Channel 4 gave us what is sadly becoming a legend in our lifetime: the miners' strike. Which Side Are You On? was Ken Loach's emotive film, which has won a prize in Florence, in riot picture, verse and song. The last two came from miners and their wives. It was funny, occasionally bitter and sad, stirring the sympathies but, leaving reason, as it must be, in neutral.

Dennis Hackett

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Dance

Pilobolus
Sadler's Wells

There is a school of thought that holds that whatever a performer or artist describes his work as must be so. By that assumption, since the group at Sadler's Wells this week calls itself Pilobolus Dance Theatre, dance it is, even if the lack of any rhythmic drive or patterning in the movement makes me think it ought rather to be classified along with the mimes, white-faced clowns, "performance artists" and other pseudodance epidemics of contemporary theatre.

One thing is for sure: they are no great believers in productivity or work study methods. Just think: a company of only six dancers but with no fewer than five artistic directors. Most of the composition, too, is done on a multiple basis. Day Two lists eight choreographers (that is two more than its total cast) and it took six composers plus a group to devise the music for *What Grows in Mygen's Window*.

I looked in vain for a programme credit for the committee who presumably designed the tiny briefs worn as the sole costumes for *Day Two* - so exiguous at the rear that they separated without at all hiding the cheeks, which were duly wagged at us as part of the choreography. Otherwise, the most striking features of this piece were the finale, in which the performers entered under the floorcloth and burst up through it, and the curtain calls in which they slid recumbent across the stage with the benefit of some liquid lubricant.

The programme includes a solo, *Pseudopodia* (they are very keen on names from natural science), in which Austin Harteel writhes on his back or does backward rolls over one shoulder. Otherwise, much of their time is spent manipulating their own or their partners' bodies into strange shapes. It looks painful and contrived, and about as synthetic as the scores that accompany the pieces - literally so, since they sound like simple doodling on a synthesizer.

The lighting is mostly moody, and there are a few moments of ingenious theatricality, such as the way things that grow in *Mygen's Window* finally give birth to their own manipulators as the cast wriggle out from under the enveloping cloaks, concealing hats and long false arms.

John Percival

Chamber Strings of
Melbourne
Australia House

For all the famous performers that have come from Australia, musically it is still what one might call a developing nation, though its cultural policy is now rather more positive than it used to be. To judge from the playing of the Chamber Strings of Melbourne, a group of advanced students, technical standards are as yet a little behind those in Britain. But, even so, since they sound like simple doodling on a synthesizer.

The lighting is mostly moody, and there are a few moments of ingenious theatricality, such as the way things that grow in *Mygen's Window* finally give birth to their own manipulators as the cast wriggle out from under the enveloping cloaks, concealing hats and long false arms.

Even at its best, their work seems to me twice, bearing much the same relationship to dance as plastic gnomes to sculpture. Old-fashioned, too; they have diversified, but scarcely developed, since we first saw their work in the early Seventies. But I have to record both laughter and applause from Tuesday night's audience, and their curtain call fully deserved it.

John Percival

Stephen Pettitt
Park Lane Group
Purcell Room

The Polish-born flutist Jadziga Kotowska clearly thrives on high-voltage music. She tackled the frenetic Boulez Sonatine with a driving energy, steadied by her compatriot Barbara Halska's admirably precise pianism. But there are opportunities here for a more relaxed lyricism, when Boulez seems to nod, however obliquely, at an older Gallic flute tradition, and these Miss Kotowska failed to grasp.

Her tone, rather monochromatic for all its low-register firmness in Frank Martin's Ballade, was better suited to the Korean Isang Yun's *Garak*, where a haunting, vibrato-less "white sound" seemed the perfect timbre to express Yun's melodramatic fusion of orientalism and Western serialism. Better still was her smooth yet coruscating execution of the stratospheric cascades in George Benjamin's *Flight*, a lively fantasy boldly reworking

Stephen Pettitt

THE TIMES Portfolio

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100	95	Guinness	100	95	5	100	95	Guinness	100	95	5
100	95	Highland	100	95	5	100	95	Highland	100	95	5
100	95	Douglas	100	95	5	100	95	Douglas	100	95	5
100	95	Bel (Amur)	100	95	5	100	95	Bel (Amur)	100	95	5
100	95	Hughes & Hanson	100	95	5	100	95	Hughes & Hanson	100	95	5
100	95	Scott & New	100	95	5	100	95	Scott & New	100	95	5
100	95	BUILDING AND ROADS	100	95	5	100	95	BUILDING AND ROADS	100	95	5
100	95	Higgs & Hill	100	95	5	100	95	Higgs & Hill	100	95	5
100	95	Travis & Arnold	100	95	5	100	95	Travis & Arnold	100	95	5
100	95	Tarmac	100	95	5	100	95	Tarmac	100	95	5
100	95	Taylor Woodcock	100	95	5	100	95	Taylor Woodcock	100	95	5
100	95	Wimpey (George)	100	95	5	100	95	Wimpey (George)	100	95	5
100	95	Turner	100	95	5	100	95	Turner	100	95	5
100	95	Newarth	100	95	5	100	95	Newarth	100	95	5
100	95	Kay's Cement	100	95	5	100	95	Kay's Cement	100	95	5
100	95	INDUSTRIALS & R	100	95	5	100	95	INDUSTRIALS & R	100	95	5
100	95	Halma	100	95	5	100	95	Halma	100	95	5
100	95	Evered	100	95	5	100	95	Evered	100	95	5
100	95	Eastern Prod	100	95	5	100	95	Eastern Prod	100	95	5
100	95	GKN	100	95	5	100	95	GKN	100	95	5
100	95	Hayward	100	95	5	100	95	Hayward	100	95	5
100	95	Jackson (H&B)	100	95	5	100	95	Jackson (H&B)	100	95	5
100	95	Garton Eng	100	95	5	100	95	Garton Eng	100	95	5
100	95	Hill Lloyd	100	95	5	100	95	Hill Lloyd	100	95	5
100	95	Exide	100	95	5	100	95	Exide	100	95	5
100	95	Hav Norman	100	95	5	100	95	Hav Norman	100	95	5
100	95	DRAPERY AND STORES	100	95	5	100	95	DRAPERY AND STORES	100	95	5
100	95	Debenhams	100	95	5	100	95	Debenhams	100	95	5
100	95	Harris Greenway	100	95	5	100	95	Harris Greenway	100	95	5
100	95	Cent SM	100	95	5	100	95	Cent SM	100	95	5
100	95	Freemantle	100	95	5	100	95	Freemantle	100	95	5
100	95	Home Charm	100	95	5	100	95	Home Charm	100	95	5
100	95	Henderson (John)	100	95	5	100	95	Henderson (John)	100	95	5
100	95	Fine Art Dev	100	95	5	100	95	Fine Art Dev	100	95	5
100	95	Ladbrokes	100	95	5	100	95	Ladbrokes	100	95	5
100	95	Forter Bros	100	95	5	100	95	Forter Bros	100	95	5
100	95	Habitat	100	95	5	100	95	Habitat	100	95	5

BUILDING AND ROADS											
295	154	Abertree Concor	189			9.4	3.2	9			
296	154	Abertree Concor	285								
74	32	Amica	56	+3		5.8	5.8	28			
74	32	Amica	56	+2							
54	79	Atmos	80	r	+1	5.6b	5.6b	28			
118	122	Balfour Beatty	288			8.5	4.3	48			
118	122	Balfour Beatty	288			10.0	8.8	28			
45	27	Blackburne	36			2.8	2.8	6			
45	27	Blackburne	36								
164	116	Bellway	133			30.9	7.5	28			
74	32	Bentley Concor	70			5.4	7.7	94			
74	32	Bentley Concor	70								
502	346	Blockley	570			30.8	5.3	28			
502	346	Blockley	570			30.8	5.3	28			
118	168	Brownlie & Brownlie	194			10.2	6.2	17			
118	168	Brownlie & Brownlie	194	-1		10.2	6.2	17			
74	32	Brayley	57			2.9	3.3	13			
74	32	Brayley	57								
61	67	Brownlie	80			5.2	7.6	7			
61	67	Brownlie	80								
77	58	Clyne	80			4.3	8.8	8			
77	58	Clyne	80			4.3	8.8	8			
139	146	Harland & Hoffman	146	+5		4.3	3.0	28			
139	146	Harland & Hoffman	146	+5		4.3	3.0	28			
394	47	Canal-Postlelands	65			1.0	1.8	18			
394	47	Canal-Postlelands	65			1.0	1.8	18			
118	122	Canal-Postlelands	65			1.0	1.8	18			
118	122	Canal-Postlelands	65			1.0	1.8	18			
74	324	Cassell	376	+8		30.9	5.3	9			
74	324	Cassell	376	+8		30.9	5.3	9			
118	122	Cassell (Dennis)	376	-6		9.1	9.1	28			
118	122	Cassell (Dennis)	376	-6		9.1	9.1	28			
106	48	Cranch Group	62			8.1	1.3	13			

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Fair terms for P & O merger with SGT

Without Sir Jeffrey Sterling, his men and his methods, the high expectations now vested in P & O would assuredly sink, and with them, a buoyant P & O share price.

That, in essence, is the case for merging SGT, formerly Sterling Guarantee Trust, with P & O, a venerable and valuable ship-decked by the abrupt attentions of Trafalgar House and sailing again on a well-charted course. If SGT, in which Sir Jeffrey and his closest aide, Bruce McPhail, have a heavy emotional as well as financial investment, were to remain apart from P & O, you would have a house divided against itself and an inevitable dilution of energy and spirit.

In the early hours yesterday morning George Mason, of Morgan Grenfell (for P & O) and Christopher Spörborg of Hambros for SGT agreed that they had worked out terms "we can live with" for P & O's acquiring SGT.

At a more civilized hour the Stock Exchange, with some reluctance, agreed to a request to suspend dealings in the shares of both companies, to allow final points to be resolved and the two boards a formal opportunity to deliberate. If everything goes to plan, the terms will be published in time for dealings to be resumed at the start of business on Monday.

The prices at which the shares were suspended are 32½p (P&O) and 74½p (SGT). As many of the relevant numbers are known and those for the immediate future can be estimated with some confidence, market analysts will rapidly make their own assessments of the precise terms. A word of warning, however, the SGT price may have moved just a little too far. If there is to be a touch of generosity in the terms it will favour P&O shareholders.

There are sound psychological reasons why this would be so. The projected merger needs not only the consent of the majority, it is in everyone's interest that the merged company is launched in an atmosphere of the greatest possible goodwill.

The immediate consequence of such a successful launch would be a firm P&O share price, and an enhanced market capitalization, to set alongside a strong combined balance sheet. The latter will be even stronger if, as logic dictates, SGT immediately disposes of its 20 per cent holding in P&O. With a value of some £8 million such a sale (why not to existing P&O shareholders on the generosity

principle" advocated earlier?) would swing SGT's borrowings through a beneficial arc of £160 million.

The terms, which I estimate will be nearer an equivalent of one P & O share for five SGT than one for four, will take some notice of the earnings dilution that results from putting a lower rate company (P & O) with the higher rated SGT. But in view of the strength of SGT's expected performance in the next few years, and the contribution the SGT team has already made to P & O, not perhaps too much notice. P & O shareholders' income is not expected to suffer and SGT shareholders can expect to catch up in due time.

The important thing, given that the terms are reasonable for both sets of shareholders, is that the concept of putting the companies together is both opportune and right.

Gilts option back in fashion

Stock Exchange members with long memories may just recall that options on gilts were allowed before the last war. The new short gilt traded option launched today is different: it is a traded option (that is, negotiable in its own right) - and options are fashionable.

The Stock Exchange is encouraged by the modest success of its "Footsie" option which is based on the FT-SE100 index. The appeal of this new instrument is more to fund managers for whom gilts are very big business indeed but who lack an adequate hedge at the volatile short end of the market. Long gilts have been better served since the Life contract took off.

If Life is a guide, fund managers will dip their toes into the options market rather gingerly. In its initial stages, and much later on, the success of the short gilt option will greatly depend on the interest it arouses among private speculators.

Against that, the structure of the new contract, with a minimum size of £50,000 of nominal stock, means that a private investor would need substantial assets, even though the actual premium commitment is quite small.

The fact that the rules allow a single investor to hold or write up to 1,000 contracts in any one class (at the moment calls or puts in Exchequer 10 per cent 1989) points to this being a predominantly professional market.

A return to Barberism?

The gilt-edged market waited in vain for a tap yesterday at 3.30pm, but the authorities opted to play it long instead. The Government Broker failed to put in an appearance. Rather encouragingly, from the authorities' point of view, gilts responded positively, and long-dated stocks improved by a ½ point.

This swing in sentiment may be short-lived, however. In another corner of the market, the Bank of England was announcing a deal which confirms still more the picture of underlying fiscal and monetary laxity which some analysts claim is now the baleful mark of money market management.

The Bank of England is now offering a sale and repurchase facility to the clearing banks of up to £2 billion to help ease tight liquidity pressures which might stem from seasonal tax payments in January. The facility is available from next Tuesday, and matures, appropriately enough, on St Valentine's Day. The facility comes just a few days after the last arrangement expired, and is exactly twice the size of the first such offering, announced in October.

Arguably, the increase in the size of the facility, coupled with the current weight of the bill mountain - \$10.5 billion - indicates the scale of measures the authorities need to take in order to cope with the state of credit demand while still keeping interest rates down. The facility amounts to an injection of funds into the system. Were such funds not available, then interest rates, according to one

argument, would rise to match the supply and demand for credit.

There is an additional twist to the current facility. In the past, the arrangement has been made available coupled with heavy injunctions that the banks should not treat the leeway created in their balance sheet by the injection of liquidity to buy extra gilts. But this time the injunction is far milder.

Whatever the rationale behind the injunction to the banks not to add substantially to their gilt holdings, it risks undermining the whole technique of money market management. Over funding only works provided the extra gilts on offer are held by the non-bank private sector. As soon as such gilts reach the clearing, they fail to qualify as funding for monetary control purposes. Under the terms of the new facility, there is little to prevent such an eventuality. The authorities are almost inviting the banks to take part in a genteel piece of round tripping.

The impact of the last gilt repurchase facility for British Telecom - is manifestly present in the summary of the clearing banks' balance sheets, for banking December, published on Tuesday. On December 4, the Bank purchased for resale £174 million of gilts, sold mainly by the Midland, and £796 million of ECGD promissory notes. Judging by the increase of £1 billion in market loans to discount houses and the rest of the monetary sector, the clearers put the cash right back into the system.

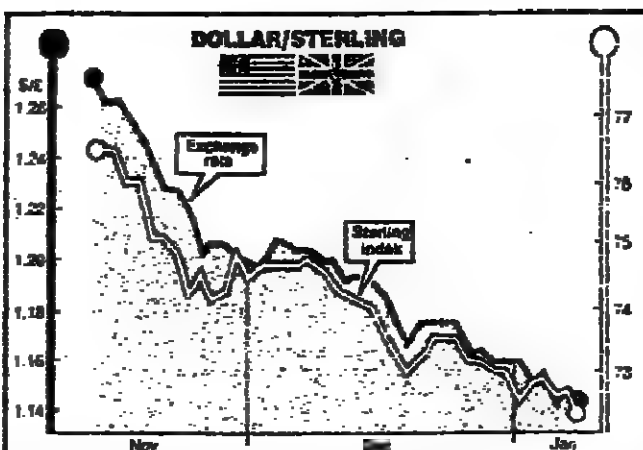
By David Smith
Economics Correspondent

The pound resumed its downward trend yesterday, falling 63 points to a new closing low of \$1.1432. The sterling index fell 0.4 to 72.3, also a record closing low.

The fall, which was against all currencies, came as dealers decided that an early rise in bank base rates in Britain was not now on the cards, after Tuesday's announcement of a ½ per cent drop in money supply in December.

Official figures published yesterday showed that bank lending to industry is running high, undermining industry's vulnerability to any base rise.

The Bank of England made a further move to take the heat out of base rate pressures by announcing a £2 billion repurchase facility for the banks. The "purely technical" move, in the form of gilt and Treasury bill purchases, is designed to offset large money market shortages during company tax-paying season, and prevent sharp rises in money market interest rates.



The three-month interbank rate closed at 10.9½ down ½ on the day.

The Bank of England's quarterly analysis of bank advances showed that bank lending rose by £5,915 million in the three months to November 21. After seasonal adjustment, lending was up by £5,100 million.

Companies, particularly manufacturing firms, borrowed strongly in the three-month period, total lending to manufacturing rising by £1,572 million, or 8 per cent. Part of this rise could be erratic, notably the £682 million, or 22.5 per cent increase in lending to the food, drink and tobacco sector.

However, the general picture is of a strong upturn in borrowing by industry, which leaves firms more vulnerable to interest rate increases and augurs badly for the prospects

of a slowdown in bank lending. There was an across-the-board increase in lending to industry: sterling lending to the electrical engineering industry was up £509 million, compared with a £120 million fall in the previous three months. The chemicals industry borrowed £109 million, compared with £1 million, mechanical engineering £110 million, compared with £18 million, and manufacturers of transport equipment, other than motor vehicles, £104 million, compared with £49 million.

Outside manufacturing, lending was up to the construction industry (£198 million), retailers (£309 million), wholesalers (£212 million) and hotel and catering companies (£149 million).

Lending to the personal sector, up 4 per cent or £1,266 million in the three months to November 21, rose at a slower rate than the overall bank lending.

Foreign banks were responsible for most lending to United Kingdom residents in the latest three months, the first time this has occurred.

Guinness Peat ends 3-year run of losses

By Michael Prest
Financial Correspondent

Guinness Peat, the investment group which includes the merchant bank Guinness Mahon, emerged yesterday from its tribulations of the last three years to announce a pre-tax profit of £10.5 million for the year to the end of September.

Comparisons are bedevilled by the 17 months which preceded its latest accounting year, but in that period to the end of September 1983, the group lost £2.07 million before tax.

In the second half of the year 1983/4 the group made £6.3 million pre-tax, on which a final dividend of 0.8p a share is recommended. The full dividend proposed is 1.4p against nothing during the previous accounting period.

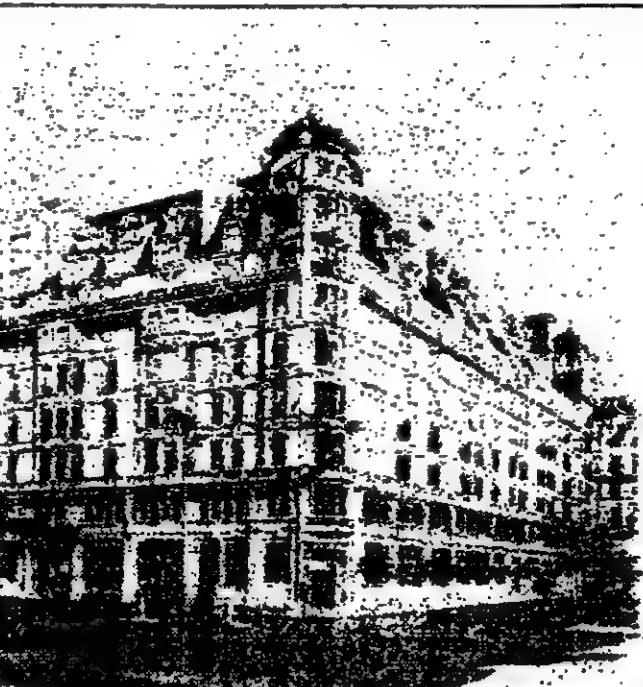
The most recent figures include for the first time a full year's consolidation of the true pre-tax profits of the bank. Guinness Mahon is understood to have contributed almost £4 million, after allowing for a £1 million write-off against a bad debt in Dublin.

Mr Alastair Morton, who came to Guinness Peat three years ago this week at the height of its troubles, said that the star performer had been Fenchurch Insurance which earned operating profits of about £6 million, almost double the result last time. Generally higher premiums in the insurance business were the main reason.

Guinness Peat Aviation, which specializes in financing and marketing used aircraft, raised its contribution to over £3 million. Mr Morton expects both the insurance and the aviation businesses to generate significantly higher profits this year.

But he said there was scope for greater profitability on the banking side. Shareholders are to be asked to change the group's name to Guinness Mahon.

Debt stands at £30 million compared with net worth of £74 million. The market took cheer from earnings per share of 4.33p, against a loss of 1.65p, and marked the shares up 3p to 63p.



Architect's drawing of the refurbished east wing of the Savoy, let by Ladbroke.

Ladbroke lets Savoy wing to Citibank

By Judith Huntley
Commercial Property Correspondent

London and Leeds, the property division of the Ladbroke Group, has let its 50,000 sq ft office development adjoining the Savoy Hotel in the Strand, London, to Citibank, the US banking organization.

Citibank will not disclose what it is paying for the offices but Ladbroke says it is a record rent for the area.

Recent office lettings in the Strand for small amounts of space have reached £20 a sq ft a year. The bank has taken a 25-year lease on the building which has new air conditioned offices behind the existing facade of the east wing of the Savoy Hotel.

Citibank intends staying in its Aldwych offices but is moving its financial institutions division to the Savoy. The bank, which is known to have been searching for more than a 100,000 sq ft of additional offices in the City of London, now says that it has enough space in the Square Mile.

The Ladbroke Group bought the 999 year lease on the Savoy

SE Council considers new rules

By Alison Eadie

The Stock Exchange Council yesterday ended its two-day session discussing membership rules with a decision to reconvene in two weeks after the constitutional committee has had time to refine and rewrite its proposals in the light of the council's debate.

It is hoped that two more meetings of the council will be sufficient to finalize the council's position. A discussion paper with the council's view will then go out to all exchange members.

Mr George Nissen, chairman of the constitutional committee and senior partner of stockbroker Pender & Boyle, said there were no major disagreements on the main policy objectives. "A lot of different angles have been examined and a lot of different views represented," he said. The council now has to find something in its detailed form that is fair and seen to be fair.

The committee's standpoint is that the Stock Exchange is an ongoing concern, which will need a great deal more involvement in technology to remain as an efficient central market. It is, therefore, irrelevant to talk about the size of the existing Stock Exchange assets and their share-out among existing members. Several of the smaller firms are concerned that allowing new entrants in too cheaply will in effect be giving away assets that belong to existing members.

The City's Council for the Securities Industry yesterday published a draft code of principles on the management of conflicts of interest. It repeats many agreed points in respect of acting in clients' best interests, but also tries to grapple with the question of "Chinese walls" defined as "an established arrangement whereby information known to persons involved in one part of a practitioner's business is not available to those involved in another part of the business".

The code recommends that new clients should be told that firm contains "Chinese Walls", but admits that these arrangements will be less effective in smaller firms.

Crisis for oil exporters

By Our Financial Correspondent

The financial position of the poorer members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries has deteriorated rapidly in the last two years and could soon become critical without a sharp increase in revenues, Salomon Brothers, the Wall Street investment bankers, says in a report published today.

Salomon estimates that the poor members - listed as Algeria, Ecuador, Gabon, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Nigeria and Venezuela - became net debtors to the banking system in 1982. After being net depositors with the Bank for International Settlements to the tune of \$20

million in 1981, they became net borrowers of \$14 million last year. This year, their borrowings could rise to \$50 million.

The accumulated current account surplus, which stood at \$61 million in 1981, was exhausted last year and could turn into a cumulative deficit of \$31 million within two years.

Oil exporters will hold an extraordinary conference in Geneva on January 28, to discuss production controls, prices and price differentials, according to the official Algerian news agency APS.

Resignations leave void in Reagan team

From Bailey Morris, Washington

The early resignation of Mr C. Todd Conover as Comptroller of the United States Currency is expected to be followed soon by the departure of another top regulator, leaving a big void in the Reagan Administration's banking team.

Banking officials said yesterday Mr William Isaac, chairman of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, had also indicated he would step down in the spring. The departures of two of the three top United States bank regulators is expected to slow the administration's momentum in pressing for banking deregulation legislation, which will break down barriers to interstate banking and allow institutions to expand into non-banking services.

Mr Conover held a press conference in Tuesday to confirm reports he would resign in the spring, a year before his term expires in 1986, to return to the private sector.

The outposts, currency chief has been criticised during his tenure for relaxed supervision which allowed the near collapse of Continental Illinois International Bank, America's eighth largest, and the failure of a near record number of smaller banks. He said he was leaving because he had gone as far as he could in pushing banking deregulation under existing legislation.

"I have accomplished as much as I can to deregulate without additional congressional action," he said. Mr Conover said prior to his departure he expected to

IN BRIEF

Coal strike hits Asda

Associated Dairies Group, which includes the Asda superstore chain, has reported pre-tax profits of £53.7 million for the 28 weeks to November 10, 1984, up from £48.7 million. The figure was below the City's expectations and the company blamed the impact of the miners' strike and milk production problems brought on by the summer drought for the disappointing results.

Turnover increased from £876.4 million to £993.2 million with the bulk of the improvement coming from Asda which accounted for 84 per cent of sales. However, the miners' strike is estimated to be costing the company £1 million a week in lost sales.

Allied Carpets increased profits and sales, but Associated Dairies hopes to sell the loss-making Wades furniture stores to the management this month. An interim dividend of 1.15p has been declared compared with 1.04p last time.

Tempus, page 17

Pre-tax profits of £19.5 million for the year to next March and a 12.5 per cent higher dividend payout of at least 18p, are forecast in a defence document from Powell Duffryn, the engineering, shipping and fuel distribution group attempting to fight off a £178 million takeover bid from Hanson Trust.

Tempus, page 17

Losses cut

Johnson & Firth Brown, the specialist engineering group, has reduced pre-tax losses for the year to September 30, 1984, from £10.9 million to £4.1 million. No dividend will be paid.

Tempus, page 17

£200m flotation

A £200 million tag is expected for Hilldown Holdings, the Buxted Poultry, Daylay Eggs and Lockwoods tinned fruit and vegetables group, when it is floated on the stock market, making its founder, Mr David Thompson, worth £120 million.

Ulster jobs

The Hong Kong trading group, CHA, is to open a linen mill at Doughty, County Antrim, Ulster this year. Textile Yarns will employ 60 in its first phase.

A record 135 companies have applied in the ninth round of North Sea oil licence awards. The Department of Energy expects to announce the allocation of auctioned licences, which will probably bring in more than £120 million for the Treasury by the end of this month, and the remaining discretionary licences by April.

Good for you

Arthur Guinness and Sons, the stout brewer, yesterday spent £2 million on Nature's Best, a private firm making vitamin pills, dietary supplements and other health products.

Bank loss

Dar al-Maal al-Islami, one of the biggest "Chinese walls" operating on Islamic principles, incurred a net loss of \$19.5 million (£17.1 million) during the year to the end of last June.

Prime cut

Southwest Bank of St Louis has reduced its prime lending rate to 10½ per cent from 10¾ per cent the first US bank to do so since the Federal Reserve discount rate was lowered.

'Worst deal' for UK car buyers

By Richard Thomson

The EEC decision to minimize car price variations in different member countries has made it far harder for British consumers to buy cars cheaply on the Continent, it emerged yesterday. The Consumers' Association described it as "absolutely astonishing", and said the decision appears to give Britain a worse deal than any other EEC country.

On December 12 the EEC Commission decided on new rules to reduce car price differentials. The new rules ended the practice of selling cars to foreigners at pre-tax prices in countries where vehicle prices are low.

It was hoped that Belgium, one of the most popular car markets for United Kingdom buyers, would not be included in this, but it became clear yesterday that it would be. British buyers in Belgium will have to pay the price charged for the same model in the next cheapest EEC country.

However, the rules appear to allow buyers from other EEC countries going to Belgium still able to buy cars at pre-tax Belgian prices.

CH Beazer makes agreed £26m offer for Leech

By Jeremy Warner

CH Beazer (Holdings), the fast-growing Bath-based house-building group, yesterday made an agreed £26 million takeover bid for its smaller, Newcastle-based rival, William Leech.

The company also announced that it will be withdrawing its separate £48 million bid for Bath and Portland unless something happens to stop the higher, £61.5 million rival offer from Consolidated Gold Fields.

Beazer failed to take control of Leech last July when it was offering terms worth £21.5 million. According to its chairman, Mr Brian Beazer, the directors of the two companies have been in "intermittent

discussions" ever since enabling the new terms to be agreed. Since last July, Mr Richard Adamson, has been replaced as chairman of Leech by Mr Bill Griffiths and this may have played a part in changing the anti-Beazer stance of the board.

Beazer is offering 165p worth of 8.5 per cent convertible unsecured loan stock for each Leech share. L. Messel & Co, the company's broker, have stated that the loan stock would command a value in the market of about £105 for every £100 worth, placing a value on each Leech share of 173p.

County Bank has agreed to make a cash alternative offer, worth 165p per Leech share.

Although sales of smaller and cheaper houses were good, and the key Christmas period saw higher sales than in 1983, sources close to De Beers indicated last night that the disappointing trend might herald a slack 1985.



Alastair Morton: Scope for greater profitability.

STOCK MARKETS

FT Ind Ord	583.14 (+11.9)
FT-A All Share	605.35 (+7.04)
FT Govt Securities	81.83 (+0.34)
FT-SE 100	1258.2 (+15.7)
Bargains	28,155
Dataseq USM	105.63 (+0.79)
New York	
Dow Jones	1200.09 (+8.38)
Tokyo	
Nikkei Dow	11,763.57 (+93.78)
Hong Kong	
Hang Seng	1269.95 (+19.08)
Amsterdam	186.52 (+1.3)
Sydney: AO	715.8 (-2.7)
Frankfurt	
Commerzbank	114.14 (+3.6)
Brussels:	
General	153.45 (-4.85)
Paris: CAC	187.71 (+1.6)
Zurich	
SKA General	331.80 (+0.70)

GOLD

London fixing	at \$298.35pm-\$300.50
close \$301-\$301.50	
New York	
Comex \$300.35 latest	

MARKET SUMMARY

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RISES:	
Rotating	7p +2½p
William Leech	19p +32p
Howard Machinery	14p +2½p
Unigroup	28p +3p
CIBER	20p +2p
Comb Tech Corp	33p +2½p
Camelia Investments	£22.50 +£2
Wolfschneide Rink	200p +18p
Barrow Hepburn	48p +4p
Electronic Rent	51p +4p
Kean & Scott	64p +5p
Empire Stores	104p +8p
Higgins Brewery	93p +7p
F.H. Tomkins	105p +12p
Posco Minsep	207p +18p
Williamson Tea	555p +35p
Barker & Dobson	10½p +7½p
John Brown	23p +2p
Promotion House	23p +2p

FALLS:

Beeslake	280p -53
Resource Technology	37p -5p
Antiochagda Hlds	200p -25p
Barbican	4p -1½p
Applied Botonics	4p -½p
Esplay Trust	18p -2p
MJI Corp	10p -1p

CURRENCIES

London:	
£: \$1.1432 (-0.0063)	
£: DM 3.81 (-0.0173)	
£: Sfr 3.0225 (-0.0080)	
£: FF 11.0490 (-0.0550)	
£: Yen 291.30 (-0.35)	
£ Index: 72.3 (-0.4)	
New York:	
£: \$1.1405	
£: DM 3.81	
£ Index: 145.9	

INTEREST RATES

London:	
Bank Base: 9½-9¾	
3-month interbank 10-9½	
3-month eligible bills	
buying rate 9½-9¾	
US:	
Prime Rate: 10.75%	
Federal Funds 7½	
3-month Treasury bills 7.71-7.67%	
Long bond (102½-102¾)	

COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

Battle lines drawn in finance fight

By Judith Huntley

Ability to change will be a key weapon as estate agents struggle to stay independent

The financial revolution in the City of London is having far-reaching effects. Not only are the stockbrokers and jobbers feeling the winds of change but they are beginning to sweep over the property profession, too.

Battle lines are being drawn up for a share of the highly profitable earnings which come from advising on property investment. The financial conglomerates, now taking shape, are casting covetous eyes on the small number of top estate agents with investment departments. Investment departments are money spinners and the estate agents are fighting back.

The question is how long will it be before one of these financial giants snags up a top firm of commercial chartered surveyors or estate agents. (Lloyds Bank has bought estate agents, but only the sort that sell people houses.) It is not only the British conglomerates that are showing interest in taking a slice of the action. US banks and financial services operations appear to be casting an eye in this direction. Merrill Lynch, the US group, is believed to be looking at the possibility of acquiring an interest in a British firm.

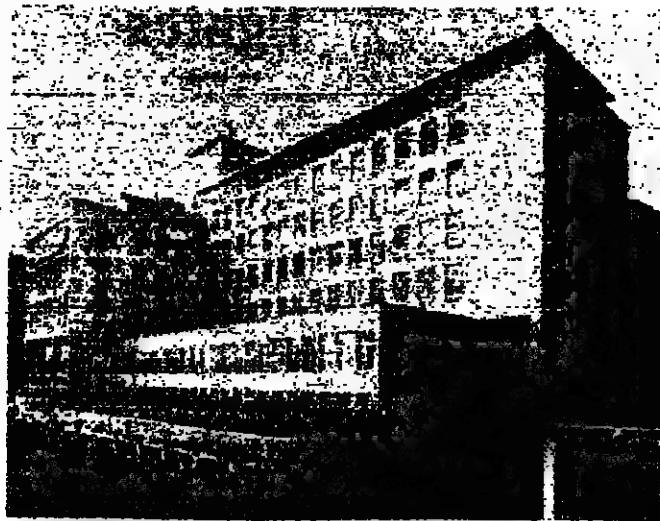
The attraction for the banks

and others in the financial world is that the top 20 or so firms of estate agents already have the contacts and the clients in the property investment market. These have been established over a long time. Buying out the equity in a large practice with institutional clients would give them a ready-made service.

The current exchange rate must make the prospect of buying equity in a British firm of agents particularly attractive for the US combines. Many already have substantial holdings in British financial concerns. The short-term attractions for the British firms who might agree to sell equity are very real. The partners would receive capital and, probably a contract to work for the new company. But it would not be all plain sailing.

Some members of the chartered surveying profession worry about the prospect of being swallowed up by a financial giant. Mr Richard Culling, of Chestertons, for example, sees problems in selling the idea of a merger to clients. He argues that the value of the service given by chartered surveyors and estate agents is that it is independent and based on a long-term relationship which has to be carefully fostered.

The need to maintain professional standards is important to him and he is worried that if this selling point is taken away, there will be little else to combat competition from those who



English and American Insurance Group has taken 6,000 sq ft of offices in Three Quays, Tower Hill, in the City of London at a rent of £29,288 a year. The insurance company took over the lease from Tozer Phillips at no premium with a rent review due in June 1988. English and American has also taken 1,760 sq ft on the second

floor of the building on a new lease at £30,000 a year, subject to review in 1989 and expiring in 1992, from the landlord IBM (United Kingdom) Pensions Trust which recently bought the development. Basil Harris Saunders acted for English and American. Bates Richards & Co acted for Tozer Phillips and Fletcher King represented IBM.

remain independent. At the moment, the position on the professional standing of those who might join a financial services group is unclear.

Although the numbers of chartered surveyors likely to be involved in such a move is small, the impact on the profession is great. Firms handling the large institutional investment portfolios are responsible for advising on billions of pounds of investors' money. It is money which has a

crucial effect on the property market.

But the signs are that the surveyors are fighting back. Richard Ellis, for example, has set up a financial services unit to concentrate on providing specialist advice. The firm saw which way the wind was blowing in the City and decided to change its policy as a result.

The new unit will be led by Mr Andrew Huntley, supported by three associate partners - Mr

Hugh Ellingham, Mr Michael Ellis and Mr Stephen Barter. The team will be based in the City along with the rest of the new set-up, which will offer a package deal on property. Property finance has been a growing element of the firm's business.

Richard Ellis has been involved in share issues on the Stock Exchange and the Unlisted Securities Market in the last year and sees its new unit continuing that service. It will also be looking at new techniques for funding development. This is a growing sector of the property market.

Innovative types of funding, a long way removed from the traditional institutional deal, have been more and more in evidence, particularly for the large office buildings in the City which are to house the financial conglomerates themselves. RE predicts that syndicated funding will be a possibility this year, with investors buying units in a property and a secondary market emerging.

Estate agents may find themselves in the position of having to offer their investment clients alternative vehicles for their money. They would then be competing with the financial services operations on their own ground.

If they are to fight off competition they will have to be more directly involved in the property market and be able to offer a specialist service, financial packages and the ability to advise corporate clients on property investment and development. Change is the order of the day.

Miners' strike cuts £2m from Asda profits

Having ignored the impact of the miners' strike for its duration, Associated Dairies has at last been forced to admit that the dispute is hitting profits. At the annual general meeting in November the chairman would only say that a prolonged strike could affect sales and that trading in the period was up to expectations. From yesterday's interim results it is clear he underestimated the problem.

In the half-year to November 10, 1984 the group now estimates that profits were cut by up to £2 million as a result of the pits dispute. The area to suffer was non-food but as food continues spending on food might also be hit. If the strike ended tomorrow there would still be a time lag before traditional spending patterns returned.

With pretax profits of £53.7 million, up by 10 per cent, being well below market expectations, the miners provide an adequate scapegoat for the disappointing figures.

There were other factors, particularly the problems over milk production brought about by the drought which hit Associated Fresh Foods' profits.

The Asda chain suffered from the timing of new store openings. The six new stores were open on average for less than six weeks of the first half, although they should help boost the second half performance.

While the Asda chain produced genuine volume growth of 2.6 per cent, this falls to 2.4 per cent when petrol sales are excluded. This has come almost entirely from attracting new customers. If the stores are trying to entice customers to spend more, they are failing. Given the intense competition among the multiples, Asda faces a real battle if it is to continue to win more customers.

The Asda chain is still keen to increase its penetration of London and the Home Counties but it will have to pay heavily to do so. The cost of suitable sites is increasing at a rate significantly in excess of inflation, and again, intense competition for sites forces prices up.

The group has not disclosed what it paid for the much sought-after former Oadams printing works site near Watford. It will doubtless be a contributory factor to the excess of capital expenditure over cash generation which the company will suffer this year.

In the first half the capital spend was £62 million against £44 million last year. The

group has been forced to dig into its cash reserves to finance the programme. This has hit interest receivable which fell by about £2 million in the first half.

The superstore concept still retains its attractions for the multiples but the question is how long can the bubble remain in tact. There are already signs that superstore saturation point has been reached in some parts of the country, particularly in the North.

While there is still some way to go in the South before the same position is reached, it is a question which must be addressed at some stage.

To add to Asda's difficulties, it will also have to account for one of the most unusual Christmas shopping periods on record. The sluggish start, brought on by the Telecom flotation, gave way to a bonanza in the two weeks before Christmas. Although sales are 18 per cent ahead on last year for the period overall, Asda will inevitably have lost some volume.

On a more positive note, the Allied Carpets division is performing remarkably well and Associated Fresh Foods should have a more stable second half. The disposal of Wades, on the verge of being completed, will help cash flow and tidy up the group a little.

The group is still capable of making £130 million pretax profits in the full year. The recent weakness in the share price - there was a further fall of 10p to 146p yesterday - has presented a case for this being a buying opportunity.

On a long term view this might be so given the underlying strengths of what is a fundamentally sound group. The short term uncertainties, however, still pose a problem.

Johnson & Firth

Brown

Even seasoned analysts blanch at the Johnson & Firth Brown accounts, with their terrifying combination of losses, high borrowings, bankers' bail-outs, and repeated pleas for additional injury time. A share price of 12 1/2p, unchanged yesterday after publication of the full year results, means the market treats the metal-bashing group as merely option money.

Some of the figures hark back to the bad old days. Attributable losses total £8.3 million (£12.1 million), the Sheffield Forgemasters associate is showing broadly unchanged losses of £8.3

million. Management accounting problems uncovered at one subsidiary created additional losses of £750,000. The preference dividend remains unpaid.

But the group is talking optimistically about the current year and it hopes do not see unreasonable. Sales last year were ahead by nearly a third.

Group borrowings are down, operating expenses look under control.

The board is even talking nervously about moving into Europe.

Sheffield Forgemasters, the group put together by the authorities with British Steel and J&F in partnership, remains in theory an impediment to progress. In practice the operation is not consolidated, a merciful release for the balance sheet even though its losses affect the profit-and-loss statement. If by some miracle the associate could be floated away from the group J&F would look a very different animal.

Powell Duffryn

Powell Duffryn, the engineering, shipping and fuel distribution group which is attempting to fight off a £178 million takeover bid from Hanson Trust, has produced an impressive defence document.

For the year to the end of next March, the company is forecasting that it will make pre-tax profit of about £19.5 million which is considerably higher than most observers in the market had anticipated. The company has been more successful in coping with the effects of the miners' strike than others.

Without the 10-month dispute, profits would have been £23.5 million higher than forecast at about £23 million - a fifth more than the year before.

More could perhaps have been done with the dividend which is being lifted by only 12.5 per cent. Even so the Hanson bid values Powell Duffryn shares on an exit multiple of only 11 while the yield is 5.7 per cent - a rating which is lower than the FT-Accurities industrial group average and appears to offer no bid premium at all.

However, Hanson's share price has been so strong since the bid was announced that all these considerations have become little more than academic. Hanson's four-for-three swap terms value Powell shares at 450p while their price in the market is only 438p. Without the bid, the price could be a lot lower.

Docklands' largest office letting goes to Cleaners

● The Milltech Centre in London's Docklands on the Isle of Dogs, developed by Paul Sykes Developments of Leeds, has been let to Cleaners Ltd, the wholly owned subsidiary of Pritchard Services. The company is taking 17,850 sq ft of offices in the scheme at a rent of £151,750 a year for a 25-year lease with five-year reviews.

The deal is the largest pure office letting in the docklands enterprise zone. Cleaners Ltd is moving from Clifton Street and Westgate Street in the City. Henry Batcher & Co and St Quintin acted for Paul Sykes. Development was handled by Healey & Baker advised Cleaners Ltd.

● Scottish Provident Institution has started the refurbishment of its headquarters building in the City at 1-6 Lombard Street. Plans for the scheme will include 15,000 sq ft of air-conditioned space and can provide one or two banking units.

The offices are due for completion in September. Jones Lang Wootton is the letting agent for the scheme and advised Scottish Provident on the acquisition of its new City branch at 9-12 Basinghall Street, to which it has now moved. Scottish Provident's pensions department will continue to operate from Lombard Street.

● Bracknell Development Corporation has sold the freehold of its former headquarters, the five-acre Farley Hall complex in Wokingham Road, Bracknell, to Hunting Gate Developments for £2.6 million.

Farley Hall has 22,000 sq ft of offices with planning consent for another 5,000 sq ft. The sale by tender attracted four offers but it finally went to Hunting Gate. The office complex had previously been put on the market but was not sold due to infrastructure problems and

refusal to allow a 10,000 sq ft extension. Drivers Jones, advising Bracknell Development Corporation decided that these problems had to be overcome before putting the scheme back on the market. Hunting Gate, which had been involved in the previous attempt to increase the office space, was advised by King and Co.

● Manchester could have a shortage of good quality new industrial and warehouse property this year. There have been a few new developments in recent years and there are signs that demand is improving. Richard Ellis predicts, in its review of the Manchester property market, that rents will harden and well-located schemes will attract investors. The agents say that contractor developers, as well as some property companies, are likely to return to the market in greater strength this year. Richard Ellis believes that

the market for do-it-yourself superstores will continue to be strong. The demand for offices in the centre of Manchester and suburbs is expected to increase but new buildings are more likely to attract tenants than refurbished property. Rents of £7 a sq ft have been achieved in the city centre with the same figure reached in Wilmslow, south of Manchester. Computer companies are establishing themselves in the south of the area and Richard Ellis expects this trend to continue. It also says that demand may outstrip supply in certain sectors of the market.

● Norwich Union Insurance has confirmed the letting of its 63,000 sq ft office building, Camperdown House, Brahan Street, on the eastern edge of the City of London. Leslie and Godwin Group, the insurance broker, part of the American Frank B Hall Group, has taken

the space at a rent of just over £1 million a year. Camperdown House was developed in partnership with Wingate Property Investments.

● Coldwell Banker Real Estate Group, the US company which is the largest property services group in the world, has let Highland Pointe, a 185,000 sq ft office building in the Chicago suburb of Oak Brook to Burroughs Corporation, the computer manufacturer. The building, developed by Homart Development Company, part of Coldwell Banker, is valued at \$56 million (£46.69 million). Coldwell Banker says that this letting, believed to be the largest suburban speculative letting in Chicago reflects a growing trend for large space users to move out.

In the past year there has been a steady decline in office space in the US suburbs, says the estate agent.

STOCK MARKET REPORT

Imperial Group bid talk lifts United Biscuits shares

By Derek Pain and Pam Spooner

Is Imperial Group trying to take the biscuit? That is the question City analysts are asking as the United Biscuits share price continues to push to new peaks.

Despite vigorous denials of any takeover approach, Sir Hector Leung, chairman of UB, a bid from Imperial would make sense for the tobacco and foods company. Imperial is expected to receive comfortably more than £300 million from any sale of Howard Johnson, its US motels chain, and is unlikely to sit on the cash for long.

Imperial itself is thought to

Claydon Properties, the private property company specializing in converting redundant stores in the Midlands into small retail units is coming to the Unlisted Securities Market, probably in April. Samuel Montagu, the merchant bank, and W Greenwell & Co, the stockbroker, will bring the company to the market.

be vulnerable to takeover attempts from America, the source of much buying of its shares in recent days, and the British group is likely to want to reinvest. How money is soon as possible. It is thought to prefer a US company or one with sizable US exposure. The US accounted for about 50 per cent of UB's roughly £1,900 million turnover in the year just ended, with a huge expansion in US sales in 1984 as well as help

from the rising value of its dollar income. UB also has the right kind of business for Imperial, for instance, snack foods - KP nuts and Hula Hoops - frozen foods and the Wimpy franchises would all fit neatly into an expanding Imperial Group.

At the present UB share price of 214p, up 11p yesterday, the McVitie and Crawford biscuits company costs a bulky £682 million, giving a price-earnings ratio of just over 12. Analysts believe a price of £750 million to £800 million would be enough to gain control, but Sir Hector strongly disagrees with that figure. "It is unrealistic", he says, suggesting a price well over £1,000 million is nearer the mark.

Sir Hector and his family control under 10 per cent of UB shares, but that could be a useful basis for a bid battle. In the meantime, the market waits for news from Imperial. The annual results are due in mid-February, with market mood looking for profits of £210 million, or more from the group. At De Zoete & Bevan, the broker, Mr Nyren Scott-Malden expects Imps. to announce £213 million, against £189 million last time.

But more importantly, the City wants to know how much Imps will get for Ho-Jo, if the group indeed sells the US company as expected. If Imps gets more than the £300-£350 million forecast, the basis for acquisitions will be very strong. Imperial Group is virtually

ungeared", says Mr Scott-Malden, making a swipe at UB "not beyond the bounds of feasibility". Imperial shares are also trading at a price peak, but showed only a modest 2p gain to 197p yesterday.

Equities and Government stocks experienced another joyful day. Trading was heavy as buyers, big and small, piled into the market. The FT 30 share index, which the market is straining to fill to the 1,000 points mark, gained 11.9 points to 983.1 points, yet another new peak.

"Undoubtedly it would have

Barker Dobson, the confectionery group, got a boost from Laurence, Prust, the stockbroker, yesterday. The broker reckons 1984 profits will come out at £2,000,000 and rise to £3,200,000 in the present year. That confirms the growth pattern which began in 1983 when Barker made £1,705,000 after several years in the doldrums. Yesterday the share price rose 1 1/2p to 10 1/2p.

made even more pronounced progress if the shares of constituent, the P and O shipping group had not been suspended at 325p as the long expected merger talks with Sterling Guaranty Trust at last formally got underway.

Associated Dairies' disappointing interim which left the shares 3p lower at 48p also inhibited the index. Asda suffered a modest 4p dip when its figures were revealed and the shares seemed to be set for a rally until analysts were called in to meet the board. Lucas Industries, on a stockbroker profits downgrade, was an-

other index stock to lose ground. It was, then, left to the US more broadly based FT-SE 100 index to offer not for the first time a much more accurate indication of the market's behaviour.

At the close the FT-SE was standing at an impressive new peak of 1,259.2 points, up 15.7 points.

The better-than-expected money supply figures with the threat of higher interest rates removed and the continuing drift back to work by miners helped the market. But the main influence behind the advance was a general stock shortage

with aggressive buying often creating exaggerated price movements. Jobbers would almost certainly like to mark prices lower but in the present exhilarating climate are finding it impossible to do so.

Government stocks were strong, registering gains of up to £1 in a few cases. British Telecom, the "People's share" remained in demand ahead of today's interims, hitting a new peak in its partly paid form of 115p, up 4p.

BTR, BOC Group, Imperial Chemical Industries and Grand Metropolitan - all four helped by American interest - were other FT index constituents to make impressive headway.

On the building pitch William Leach, returned from suspension, with a 32p advance to 170p following the approved bid by the persistent C.H. Beazer building group.

Oils rallied after early weakness, helped by a less confused crude price structure. Burmah Oil, still buoyed by takeover dreams, rose 3p to 330p.

Among drug companies, Amersham International hit a new share price peak of 356p, having gained 23p so far this week. The market has heard talk that the group's new diagnostic products have reached the hospital trials stage, but Amersham says coyly "we don't discuss our development programme".

Investors are also excited about exchange rate benefits on the group's earnings. But Dr Charles Lambert, analyst at

Buckmaster & Moore, the stockbroker, thinks the aspect is less important. He has increased his profit forecast marginally from £17 million to £17.5 million to take account of present currency profits. In the year to March 1984 Amersham made £13.7 million.

IML, the West Midlands engineer, continues to move ahead. The shares reached 108p yesterday, following recommendations. Delta Group is also proving a favourite among metal bidders, its shares rising 3 1/2p to 113p.

Scapa Group was again strong. De Zoete & Bevan, the stockbroker, has increased its profit forecast after a recent visit to the company. Analyst Mr David Buck expects Scapa to make £27.5 million for the 1984/5 year, given improved US earnings valued on an exchange rate of 1.25 dollars to the pound. He points out that a year and exchange rate of 1.10 would mean profits of £30 million.

Solicitors Law Stationery Society, owners of the Oyez Press, stayed steady at 348p after Tuesday's action when the price jumped 8p as market men heard tell of a possible bid from Persimmon Press. Mr Robert Maxwell's company already has 25 per cent of the Oyez group and the speculators think he might try for the rest. But the shares are tightly held and Mr Maxwell would make no comment on the rumour.

Automotive Products continues to show resilience after last autumn's disappointing half year profit performance. The shares gained 4p to 71p yesterday - a long way off September's mid 50s price. Market talk suggests a possible bid for the car components group. Certainly, there is little good news for the company on the trading side, which suffers from recent motor industry strikes and the miners' dispute.

Courtaulds, the textile group which has been reshaped and revitalized by its chairman, Sir Christopher Hogg, shot ahead 7p to 149p as American investors displayed interest in the stock. The shares have climbed from 126p in this account.

Hanson Trust, presently bidding £170 million for the Powell Duffryn engineering group, is regarded as a likely

Courtaulds suitor. As if to support the theory, Hanson dipped 3p to 338p.

Thorn EMI, the electronics and showbusiness group, due to report interim figures today, firmed 12p to 469p after recent downdress.

Isobac, the international trading group, attracted renewed takeover speculation, rising 1 1/2p to 418p.

Boddingtons, the Manchester brewery where Whitbread and Co recently increased its shareholding, edged ahead to 86p after the company disclosed that it had sold its near 10 per

cent shareholding in Joseph Holt, the rival Manchester brewer, regarded by many as the model for the Coronation Street brewery, Newton and Riley. Holt's shares eased 20p to 870p on the announcement.

Beers generally were in good form with Bass, for the first time, crossing the 500p line with a 14p gain to 512p and Scottish & Newcastle Breweries climbing 4p to 139 1/2p, still some 10p off the peak reached in the early 1970s when takeover rumours abounded.

Allied-Lyons, following its boardroom shake-up was unchanged at 168p. Arthur Guinness, which is continuing its health build up with the acquisition for £2.4 million in shares of Natures Best Health Products, was 1p harder at 233p. Guinness reports for the year to end September next week and City analysts are now looking for £72 million before tax against £58.8 million.

Cable & Wireless buzzed along with another 24p jump in the share price to 507p. City brokers firms are piling into the stock as optimism for the electronics and communications group grows. "Buy" circulars are apparent on Throgmorton Street and analysts are looking forward to next month's visit to the Far East to see C & W operations there.

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Main points from the Chairman's Statement for the year to September 30th 1984.

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For a copy of the recently published Report of Accounts of Charles Baynes PLC please contact The Company Secretary, 6 Museum Place, Cardiff CF1 3EG.

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SENIOR SECRETARY

Camden, NW1 c. £7,500 plus benefits

Required for Department Manager and small team in the Telecoms area of a major Computer and Communications Company. You will provide a full secretarial service to the Department Manager and team and ensure the smooth running of the Department. The successful candidate will have all round secretarial skills including some administrative experience. WP experience would be an advantage as would a Sales/Marketing background.

Preferred age 25 plus.

If interested please write with full details to:

Irene Woodcock,
Personnel Executive,
NEC Business Systems (Europe) Ltd.,
35 Oval Road, London, NW1 7EA
or telephone for an application form
on 01-287 4530

NEC

NEC Business Systems (Europe) Ltd.

Secretary/Receptionist

We are currently recruiting the above for our busy interior design office in Park Lane W1.

The successful candidate will be a mature person with excellent social and secretarial skills, and good organisational abilities.

The ability to work under pressure and commitment to the job are also essential.

The work involves providing administrative and secretarial support for the department including reception and telephone work.

An attractive salary and good company benefits are offered.

We also have opportunities for secretaries in other departments, especially for in-house temporary secretaries.

Applicants should apply in writing with full C.V. giving details of age, current salary and experience together with a daytime telephone number to:

Angela Spence, Personnel Officer,
Trusthouse Forte plc,
15 Abchurch Lane, London EC4N 3TH
Tel. 01-479 9178

OFFICE MANAGER

£12-15,000

This is an exciting and rewarding career opportunity for a person with proven administrative ability to take over the running of the office of a senior executive.

The successful candidate will have a minimum of 5 years experience in a similar position and will be responsible for the smooth running of the office and the management of the office staff.

Applicants should apply in writing with full C.V. giving details of age, current salary and experience together with a daytime telephone number to:

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EXECUTIVE SECRETARY TO DISTRIBUTION DIRECTOR

c.£8,000

If you have a cheerful, confident and first-class secretarial skills this could be the ideal opportunity for you. It is a demanding post - you will need to be well organised, able to follow up work from initial instruction and plan ahead.

There is a considerable amount of telephone contact.

The person appointed is likely to be in the age range 25-40 and have had experience in a similar position.

There is also a parking space available for the car.

Please apply in writing with details of age, education, experience and current salary to:

Ruth Williams, Wall's Limited,
Personnel Department, Bird's Eye
Wall's Limited, Station Avenue,
Walton on Thames, Surrey KT12 2NT.

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Wall's Limited, Station Avenue,
Walton on Thames, Surrey KT12 2NT.

Temporary WP/Secretaries

£5.40 per hour to start immediately

We have high calibre bookers for WP secretaries who are competent to take over the running of the office of a senior executive.

The successful candidate will have a minimum of 5 years experience in a similar position and will be responsible for the smooth running of the office and the management of the office staff.

Applicants should apply in writing with full C.V. giving details of age, current salary and experience together with a daytime telephone number to:

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EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Required for our joint Managing Directors. Apart from having excellent basic skills, applicants must be self-motivated, well presented and have a mature personality.

A good salary is offered together with a range of benefits appropriate to a City financial institution.

Apply in writing to the Personnel Officer,
70 King William Street,
London EC4N 7HR.

SECRETARY/PA required

for variety of interesting duties in West End music company offices. Should have good shorthand and typing skills and be a businesslike telephone manner. Applicants, who must be smart and enthusiastic, will be offered a good salary and working conditions.

Call The Marketing Manager, 01-430 7502, for an early appointment.

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General Appointments

HEAD OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS BRANCH Communications Electronics Security Group

The Government Communications Headquarters carries out research, development and production in the field of communications, communications security and computer security. One of its main tasks is to supply security for Government and Armed Forces communications.

The person appointed to this London-based post will be responsible for the co-ordination of national inputs on communications and computer security matters to international committees/agencies and provide briefs for senior Ministry of Defence staff officers attending international meetings, representing the UK at a wide range of international meetings of agencies and working groups, mainly within the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation and the EUROGROUP, acting as Secretary at a number of these working groups.

Candidates must have proven administrative ability, a general knowledge of the organisation, communications practice and staff procedures of

government departments, primarily the Ministry of Defence; practical COMSEC experience in military and/or civil departments; detailed knowledge of NATO and EUROGROUP policies and procedures and the NATO committee structure; knowledge of the characteristics and usage of cryptographic equipment and systems both national and foreign. Ability to speak in public and to present national positions at international meetings essential.

SALARY: £14,185 - £18,785. Starting salary according to qualifications and experience.

For further details and an application form (to be returned by 30 January 1985) write to Civil Service Commission, Alencon Link, Basingstoke, Hants RG24 1JA, or telephone Basingstoke (0256) 498151 (answering service operates outside office hours).

Please quote ref: G/6428.

The Civil Service is an equal opportunity employer.

Government Communications Headquarters

Word Processing Customer Support Attractive salary + car

Sony's success in applying the latest microprocessor technology to electronic equipment has resulted in a range of video, audio and communications products which combine high performance with ease of operation. The same advanced technology has been applied to the latest in a planned series of electronic products for the office - the Series 35 range of Word Processors.

We are now looking to recruit a Market Support Representative to join our expanding Training and Support Group, which provides full support to our dealer network.

After an intensive period of product training, you will be fully conversant with our word processing equipment - able to demonstrate all the features of the range, and to assist dealers and our own sales team with demonstrations and exhibitions, and provide training to dealers and end-users. Although your base will be at Head Office in Staines, a substantial amount of travel throughout the UK is involved.

Probably aged 21 to 30, you will be educated at least to 'O' level standard. 40 WPM is the minimum typing speed and a formal secretarial qualification would be an advantage. Experience of working for a dealer or manufacturer demonstrating word processing equipment and supporting customers is essential and will have given you a knowledge of the key features of many of the machines available from the leading manufacturers. You will obviously also have a thorough grasp of a wide range of office procedures.

In return, we offer an excellent salary, company car, lunch allowance, 23 days' annual holiday and a range of other benefits which are everything you would expect from a company like Sony.

To apply, please write, with full details of your qualifications and experience to date, to Patricia Casey, Sony (UK) Limited, Sony House, South Street, Staines, Middlesex TW18 4PF.

SONY

INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL CONSULTANTS

There are large numbers of British and other ex-patriates living throughout the world, earning substantial salaries and needing skilled advice in order to maximise their long-term financial benefits.

We are in business to help them and have achieved substantial investment growth over the past year for our clients.

As a consequence, there is an increasing demand for our services, so that we must now appoint further Consultants.

The sort of people we are seeking are likely to have had a professional background in which they have achieved considerable success. However, what is certain is that they will have a natural self-confidence and discipline.

Experience of handling financial negotiations at a senior level, preferably with an overseas involvement may be an advantage but is not essential. A second language would, of course, also be an asset.

Our HQ is in Amsterdam but your working location would be where the market is.

We deal in high value services which can produce an equivalent return for the Consultants who manage and deal in them, making this a true Blue Chip appointment.

So if you think we may be speaking your language, please write enclosing a CV or full career details, in the first instance, quoting Ref: 311ST, to: F. R. Wilcockson, Director, Whites Bull Holmes Ltd., 63-66 St. Martin's Lane, London WC2.

Blue Chip Appointments



NEW BUSINESS EXECUTIVE

Due to expansion, the Property and Commercial Finance Division of United Dominions Trust Limited is seeking a banker or qualified accountant, aged 30 years plus, experienced in all aspects of lending against major projects in the residential and commercial property area.

You will be experienced in negotiation, credit assessment and the production of in-depth reports evaluating both borrowers and projects; you will also need to be energetic, resourceful and capable of generating new lending business.

Salary will be negotiable. Other benefits include a company car, non-contributory pension scheme, a staff loan facility, profit sharing scheme and 5 weeks holiday.

Please apply in writing with detailed C.V. to: C.J. Brennan, United Dominions Trust Limited, 1 Lyndon Road, New Barnet, Herts. EN5 1BU.



DIRECTOR OF CHARITIES

THE LAMBETH ENDOWED CHARITIES are a group of long-established private and independent trusts providing funds for the benefit of people living in the London Borough of Lambeth.

THE TRUSTEES now wish to appoint a successor to the Director who retires later this year. The Director is responsible for advising the Trustees, for implementing their policies and representing them in a wide variety of situations. The responsibilities also include management of a Georgian estate in Kennington.

THE ROLE OF DIRECTOR calls into play personal and professional skills which include care and concern for people and the exercise of diplomacy in dealings with organisations and individuals. Experience of charitable work and/or housing management will be an advantage.

Age range 45/50. Remuneration negotiable around £15,000.

Please send personal details in confidence to: T.O.C. Cochrane, CHARITY APPOINTMENTS, 146 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4HN.

Charity
Appointments

NATIONAL TOURIST ORGANISATION OF MALTA

Vacancy for a CHIEF EXECUTIVE

We are looking for a Chief Executive with outstanding qualities and qualifications to take charge of the National Tourist Organisation of Malta.

The Chief Executive will be between 30 and 45 years of age, and will have recognised leadership qualities. The academic qualifications required are, a degree in Economics or Business Administration - a diploma in Tourism would be a definite asset. Experience in the tourism field, which the candidate will be required to demonstrate, must include a thorough knowledge of marketing and research, and the application of computers in these fields. We regard 6 years experience in a senior management position, which will have included direct responsibility for staff, as being the minimum requirement for the Chief Executive we are looking for.

Salary will be negotiable and commensurate with experience. The successful candidate will be required to serve in Malta for a minimum of 2 years.

Applications should be addressed to: The Ministry of Tourism (G.E.), Harpers Lane, Floriana, Malta, and must reach the Ministry by 21st January 1985.

All applications will be treated in the strictest confidence.

DRI Europe, Ltd. MARKETING MANAGER

£16,000 - £26,000 plus car

Data Resource Inc. (a subsidiary of McGraw-Hill) is the world's leading economic consultancy. We are looking for a marketing manager in our European division.

The Marketing Manager will handle direct selling, as well as marketing and product documentation - and will oversee our conference organization function. He or she will be responsible for the positioning of several of DRI's International Products in Europe. The position will either report at the local level or to a board level position itself - for the right person.

That right person will have at least 5 years marketing/selling experience of intangible services (primarily technology or information based). He or she will have some economic training and will be able to succeed at a variety of functions. A good first degree is likely to be a necessary qualification.

Salary will be fully competitive in the broad range of £16,000 to £26,000 including a performance related element (about 25% of total compensation) plus a company car. Other benefits will be commensurate with those of a large international company.

Success will depend on the individual's drive and ability to carry out a variety of sales and marketing related assignments.

Please send full career details, plus salary expectations if possible, to:

Mark Jones
DRI Europe Ltd
30 Old Queen Street
St. James's Park, London, SW1H 9HP

TRAIN FOR MANAGEMENT KITCHEN DESIGN

And help us to continue to grow. We started from scratch 12 years ago and with 4 luxury showrooms in London, we are acknowledged leaders in the fast expanding Luxury Kitchen Industry.

Previous experience is secondary to the rich personal qualities as full training will be given. Starting as a trainee you could expect to become a design consultant within a year and showroom manager within 2-3 years. Our managers currently earn in excess of £17,000 pa + car and 2 have recently been appointed directors. Saturday working is involved (5 day week) and you must be prepared to live in the G.L.C. area.

You should be aged between 20 and 30 and will almost certainly be educated to at least 'A' level standard and should spurn the 9-5 mentality. A strong, enthusiastic personality is an essential requirement, so if this opportunity sounds like what you have been looking for, pick up the phone and sell yourself to us:

EDWARD HALLATT, MANAGING DIRECTOR,
JUST KITCHENS LTD.

At home any evening after 7 pm on 380 0545. At the office between 10 am and Noon for the next 2 days on 486 9758.

ASSOCIATED BRITISH PORTS HOLDINGS PLC ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT c.£10,000p.a. LONDON EC1

A vacancy exists in the Company Secretary's Department of ABPH plc for a young person with a flair for administration and communication. The post provides a broad range of company secretarial services both to the Holding Company and to other members of the Group, together with the monitoring of major purchasing contracts.

Applicants should be graduates or of graduate calibre. ABPH is the holding company of Associated British Ports, which owns and manages nineteen ports in England, Scotland and Wales, and is diversifying its activities following privatisation.

For an application form please write to the Staff Development Officer, Associated British Ports, 150 Holborn, London, EC1N 2LR or telephone Jim Haraway on 01-430 1177 x276.

MANAGER GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

c £15,000 + Car + Benefits

The Automobile Association has 5.75 million members, and is the World's largest motoring organisation. It has a major public affairs role, nationally and internationally, as an organisation representative of motoring opinion. This activity has expanded considerably over recent years, and the Association is seeking to appoint a manager to cover government affairs.

The job holder will be responsible for managing, co-ordinating and developing all Association activities in connection with proposed legislation. In particular, the successful applicant will have a direct responsibility for day-to-day liaison with the European Commission and the European Parliament, and for personally promoting AA policies and views in these forums.

Candidates should have relevant experience and a detailed knowledge of procedures within the UK Parliament and the European Community, preferably with knowledge of UK and EEC laws affecting road, traffic and related matters.

Highly developed communication skills are required, together with fluency in French. A knowledge of other European languages would be advantageous.

This interesting, varied and challenging post carries a salary of c £15,000, together with a company car and fringe benefits normally associated with a management post within a large organisation.

Interested male or female candidates should write or telephone for further details and an application form to: The Manager, Personnel Services,

AA THE AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATION
Farum House, Basing View, Basingstoke,
Hampshire. RG21 2EA. Telephone: (0256) 462917.

SALES REPRESENTATIVE Automated Training Systems

Is a major developer and distributor of computer training with headquarters in California and London having achieved broad international recognition.

The demand for our products is increasing; therefore we aim to attract and retain top quality people.

We welcome applications from interested candidates who:-
- Have skills and experience in sales.
- Are enthusiastic and professional.
- Are career orientated.

Experience in management and/or computers is a plus.

The Commission scheme that we offer is very rewarding with a minimum salary of around £10,000 per annum depending on your experience and background.

Our top sales people earn in excess of £25,000.

THE SKY'S THE LIMIT.
IT'S UP TO YOU!

TELEPHONE (01) 341 5555
Automated Training Systems
Suite 3

The Coachouse,
58/59 Highgate West Hill,
London, N6 6BU.

ACCOUNTING CONSULTANTS

We are an international firm of accountants who act as accounting consultants to the Insurance Industry.

We have a position for a Chartered Accountant in our London office, located in the City. The office is small and the successful applicant will be entrusted with responsibility soon after taking up the position.

The position will involve specialising in investigative accounting and auditing, and travelling on assignments to locations throughout the United Kingdom and Europe.

If you are a high calibre graduate, aged between 25 and 33, a creative thinker with at least 4 years' auditing experience, write in confidence sending resume to:-

CAMPOS & STRATIS
Plantation House,
Fenchurch Street,
London EC3M 3DX.

INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORTATION

We have immediate vacancies in our European Headquarters, London, for Senior Managers:-

KEY SALES MANAGEMENT/PRICING SPECIALISTS

Ideally aged between 27-35, with experience of all or either of the following Trade Routes:

North America
Middle East
Far East
Indian Sub Continent

Candidates must have experience of International Shipping, with knowledge of European Business Centres, International Markets and known Shipping 'Decision Makers'.

Successful applicants can expect a Compensation Package 'In Line' with these senior positions. Please send your type written C.V., in confidence, to:

Manager - Personnel - Europe,
United States Lines,
Bowater House,
68 Knightsbridge,
LONDON SW1X 7LX.

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT £8 - 10,000

We are a small friendly and growing Company that imports and distributes fashion merchandise.

We are looking for a young male graduate (science background preferred) must be interested in looking after a major client. Person required would have a pleasant personality, neat appearance and have the necessary drive for this demanding position. Position includes some travel to Europe.

Please write to:

Managing Director, Galaxy Shoes Ltd,
30 Oval Road, London NW1 7DG.

EniChem SALES ADMINISTRATION MANAGER

UK Headquarters of Multinational Chemical Concern

We are a multinational European based chemical concern, with an annual turnover of 5 billion dollars, active throughout the world. The company also has manufacturing assets in the UK.

The UK sales company at its new prestigious offices are currently seeking an outstanding candidate to take charge of the sales director. The position has 2 main elements:

- Management of the sales support/processing team.
- Monitoring of the UK/overseas management commercial reporting, preparation of relevant industry/economy statistics and trends.

- Involvement in corporate PR and product promotion work.

The selected candidate will be 30-35 and a graduate, having good business acumen, numeracy, industrial commercial experience preferably in a sales environment, and management capability.

Experience with computers and basic secretarial skills would be advantageous.

The position commands a competitive salary together with large company fringe benefits.

Please reply with CV to:

Susan Aarvold,
Eni Chemical (UK) Ltd,
Centrif House,
Dafford Road,
Hounslow,
Middlesex TW3 1HY.

Phillips

FINE ART AUCTIONEERS & VALUERS SINCE 1796

Due to expansion, our London picture department is looking for specialists in the following fields:-
1. 19th Century Continental Paintings.
2. 19th Century and Contemporary British and Overseas.
For further details please write or telephone Paul Viner, Phillips, 7 Bloomsbury Street, London W.C.1. Tel: 01-4622 8002.

General Appointments



Unlimited scope for Scientists and Technologists

Shown here is just a small selection of the many hundreds of advanced research projects currently being undertaken at Government establishments throughout the country. Challenging opportunities exist now, for those about to qualify as well as those with experience, covering the complete spectrum of scientific endeavour.

Career prospects are excellent and many scientists eventually take on R&D-related management roles or provide scientific and technical contributions to the formulation of government policy.

Wherever you start, it is certain that the work will be of an advanced nature — frequently 'state-of-the-art'. Facilities are invariably superb, and you will be given every encouragement to pursue individual lines of research interest.

Most opportunities are in research, others are in scientific services and support, both in research establishments and elsewhere. Vacancies are expected across a broad range of scientific disciplines, but particularly in the physical sciences, mathematics, computing and engineering (electronic and mechanical).

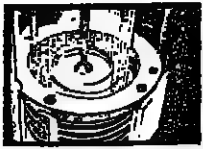
A good honours degree is required or preferred for most posts, but other degrees/HND/HNC are acceptable for some vacancies. Certain posts require post-graduate qualifications and/or experience.

For final year students, interviews will, if possible, be held in the Easter vacation.

Applications should be returned by February 15th but late applications may be accepted if interviewing arrangements permit.

For further information and an application form, write to Civil Service Commission, Alencon Link, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 1JB, or telephone Basingstoke (0256) 468551 (answering service operates outside office hours). Please quote ref: SY/21/D.

The Civil Service is an equal opportunity employer



Development of gallium arsenide technology including bulk growth and epitaxial techniques — Royal Signals and Radar Establishment



Use of satellite techniques in meteorology — Meteorological Office



Development of control engineering for exploitation of deep water oil fields — National Engineering Laboratory



Mathematical modelling of high temperature plasma dynamics — Atomic Weapons Research Establishment



Fundamental research on the causes of acid rain — Warren Spring Laboratory



Computer recognition of fingerprints — Home Office Scientific Research and Development Branch

Scientific Civil Service

S.I.T.A. WORLDWIDE TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND DATA PROCESSING SERVICES ORGANISATION

SITA UK recruits for posting to Paris Head Office:

1 STAFF LEGAL COUNSEL (Ref CZ) (or Staff Attorney)

for its Corporate General Studies and Contracts Department. Essential qualifications are a Law Degree and about three to five years experience in the international legal field including preferably negotiation of contractual matters. Knowledge of French is desirable. A background in telecommunications and data processing fields would be an advantage.

Responsibilities will encompass corporate legal and contractual matters both within the organisation itself and in relation to third parties.

1 JUNIOR FINANCIAL OFFICER (Ref AZ)

to join the Management Control Team in the Finance and Economy Department.

The applicants should have a Business School Degree or equivalent and a good knowledge of French. A basic knowledge of data-processing would be appreciated.

Responsibilities will encompass budgeting, cost control, project management control, economic studies, and may lead to other financial functions.

Candidates should be prepared to travel abroad when necessary.

Very good salary and comprehensive benefits package.

Please forward résumé and salary requirement to:

S.I.T.A., Lampton House, Lampton Road, Hounslow, TW3 4EY, Middlesex.

SALES EXECUTIVE

High Technology Company

Basic to £18,000+car (OTE to £25,000)

Already recognised as a front runner in the fast expanding portable Data Capture Systems market, our client is determined to meet an exciting growth plan and establish itself as the clear market leader in a market currently growing by around 40% annually. Specialising in providing bespoke solutions to client needs, the company already has a number of 'blue chip' companies within its portfolio and is now seeking to strengthen the sales team and capitalise on its success.

Essentially the requirements are as follows: You must have a current record of successful profitable negotiation of high value contracts at senior level in either the computer hardware/software or 'high-tech' electronic industries. Because of the long lead times involved, the key element in your career to date will be a proven record of completed transactions with a high profile customer base. A strong element of professionalism and personal presentation is very important, as is the ability to liaise with highly competent internal technical support staff in bringing projects to a profitable conclusion.

Ideally you will be aged 30-40, educated to degree level, and reside in, or be willing to move in, the northern Home Counties. A generous benefits package to include relocation assistance accompanies the quoted salary.

If you feel that your career to date matches our client's demanding requirements, you are invited to contact our Associate Director, James Morris, as soon as possible on 01-258 3621 (24 hour answering service) quoting Ref. J2999. Applications are welcome from both male and female candidates.

Executive Facilities (Marketing) Ltd.

Specialist Marketing Recruitment
Clive House, 21A Conduit Place, London W2 1RS
Telephone: 01-258 3621

Ambitious Young Graduate Interested in Conservation

This is an excellent career development move for an ambitious young business executive, educated to degree level and with a confirmed interest and/or background in conservation.

This is a completely new appointment offering responsibility for launching an exciting new project in the field of conservation.

The successful candidate will report directly to the Chairman of this privately owned group of companies based in the East of England.

The successful applicant will be around 30, a self-starter with the ability to initiate ideas and liaise with government departments and national organisations, and be able to demonstrate a successful track record in one or more post graduate appointments.

Generous salary, pension scheme and company car. Please send full c.v. which will be forwarded to our client unopened, quoting reference M9427T.



Norwich Union House, 73-79 King Street, Manchester M2 2JL.

CJA

RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

35 New Broad Street, London EC2M 1NH

Tel: 01-588 3588 or 01-588 3576

Telex No. 887374

Excellent career opportunity with fast developing organisation



CITY

SENIOR SETTLEMENTS MANAGER — CD, EUROBOND AND FLOATING RATES

TO C. £40,000 PLUS CAR

LEADING INTERNATIONAL BROKERAGE HOUSE

Due to our client's expanding activities in the fields of CD, Eurobond and FRNs, they are now looking for a Senior Settlements Manager, who must have had at least 5 years' experience of managing a Eurobond Settlements Department. This is a key appointment in our client's development plan of expanding activities in its broking and financial services operations. They are therefore expecting to negotiate a specially tailored remuneration package which will attract the best talent in the industry. There will also be a high degree of job satisfaction for an individual who is motivated by hard work and has well developed management skills. Working conditions are excellent in modern offices using the latest equipment. Applications in strict confidence under reference 16281/TT, will be forwarded unopened to our Client unless you list companies to which they should not be sent in a covering letter marked for the attention of the Security Manager: CJA.

A challenging position open to a prime mover — opportunity exists to become a Partner in 12-48 months.



LONDON

INVESTMENT SURVEYOR — COMMERCIAL PROPERTY

£20,000 — £30,000

EXPANDING FIRM OF CHARTERED SURVEYORS

Applications are invited from Surveyors, aged 25-34 who have acquired at least 2 years successful practical experience in investment work in the commercial property field. The successful candidate will report to the Senior Partner and be responsible for identifying, surveying and negotiating the purchase of commercial property for investment clients. The ability to initiate and write profitable deals and to carve out a significant share of business in this competitive field is of key importance. Initial salary negotiable, £20,000 — £30,000 + car, contributory pension, free life assurance, assistance with removal expenses if necessary. (An outstanding applicant in the age bracket 35-40 wishing to operate as a consultant in the above field would also be considered.) Applications in strict confidence under reference ISCP4307/TT to the Managing Director: CJA.

35 NEW BROAD STREET, LONDON EC2M 1NH. TELEPHONE: 01-588 3588 OR 01-588 3576. TELEX: 887374. FAX: 01-588 3219

SHAPE TECHNICAL CENTRE

THE HAGUE, THE NETHERLANDS

This NATO scientific and technical establishment has vacancies for

INFORMATION SYSTEMS SPECIALISTS

to carry out highly challenging, interesting planning and systems engineering work of Allied Command Europe's future advanced military information systems.

Annual salaries in the range of DG 66,000 to DG 85,000 net (approximately £15,500 to £20,000)

DUTIES: To perform studies and analyses using state-of-the-art techniques for data management, message handling, communications interfaces and military applications software.

QUALIFICATIONS: The successful candidate will have a university degree in computer science, physical science or engineering and in-depth experience in planning, design and implementation of computer based information systems. Preference will be given to candidates with experience in military Command, Control and Intelligence systems, ADP security and message handling systems.

In addition to the net salary range quoted above, an expatriation allowance may be payable, plus other allowances depending on family status. Attractive fringe benefits include thirty days' annual vacation, life insurance and private health insurance scheme.

Contracts will be offered for three years and may be renewable.

Candidates, who must be NATO nationals, should apply (in English) to:

Personnel Officer
SHAPE Technical Centre, PO Box 174
2501 CD The Hague, The Netherlands
Quoting reference A3/4-15-1/85, before 31 January 1985



ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA wishes to appoint a FINANCE DIRECTOR

who will be responsible for the financial structure and strategic budgeting of this major opera company which has a £10m per annum turn-over, and which is mainly funded by the Arts Council of Great Britain and the Greater London Council.

This is a senior management position, responsible to the Managing Director and to the Board of ENO, which requires an experienced and properly qualified candidate.

Salary by negotiation. Applications, in the first instance, should be addressed to the Personnel Manager, English National Opera, London Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2N 4ES.

Closing date 19 January 1985.

PERSONNEL OFFICER (Central London)

A major Multinational Group of companies in food production, distribution, retailing, shipping and other industries is seeking a high calibre Personnel Officer (M/F) to join its small central London Group Personnel Department.

The department monitors and advises on employment conditions and personnel policy and practice throughout the Group worldwide, and provides services and support for Managers and Personnel Managers of Group companies.

The successful applicant will be involved in most aspects of the Department's work in both staff and non-staff situations, including IR, salary admin, training, policy research and co-ordination, administration etc. In particular he/she will help to recruit specialised professional and management staff and will recruit and administer graduate trainees.

Applicants must have solid industrial and IR experience at plant level as well as recruitment and general experience with senior staff, preferably in a large company or Group headquarters. Sound technical/legal knowledge is essential.

The ideal applicant will be well educated, IPM qualified, aged 30-32, a self starter capable of fitting into a Headquarters environment and communicating effectively at all levels. There are excellent medium and long term career prospects. The salary is negotiable, but it is unlikely that those earning less than £11,000 will have the necessary experience for this position. Relocation help available if needed.

Applications in writing to Box No. RTS 10
Exel Advertising Ltd., 4 Bouverie Street, London EC4A 3AE
(Enclose a separate note stating any companies to whom you do not wish your application to be sent.)



As a result of enormous growth in sales of NIKE sports footwear and apparel, we are planning for the future and intend to make two more senior appointments at an early stage in this development. To keep step with our growth pattern we currently wish to add the following posts:

APPAREL MANAGER who will develop, organise and administer a very exciting Apparel Department.

We are looking for an ambitious, self-motivated person who has demonstrated ability in management, fabrics and sourcing, planning and possibly production scheduling. An organised approach is a prime requisite.

COMPANY LAWYER with at least 2/3 years relevant commercial experience that will allow him to: Generally provide a comprehensive legal service, including advisory work and commercial negotiations. Specifically providing an approval of contractual documentation and routines, and the protection and registration of trade marks.

An interest in the type of business we are in would be an advantage.

Salary and conditions of employment will be commensurate with the post.

Applications, together with a full cv, should be sent to:

Mr B. Foster, Managing Director,
NIKE,
Coniston House,
Washington Centre,
District 4,
WASHINGTON,
Tyne & Wear,
NE38 7RN.

Marked "Strictly Private and Confidential"

Closing date: Friday, 25 January, 1985.

Career Opportunities in Recruitment

London St Albans
Windsor Guildford

Expansion demands additional dynamic and enthusiastic achievers experienced in recruiting for Accountancy, Marketing or Technical appointments including Electronics and Telecoms. Graduates offering relevant experience will be given full training.

Energy and application earns high basic salary, bonus, private health care plus car after qualifying period.

Contact Lawrence Lock MID.



Management Personnel
Recruitment Section
York House, Chiswick Road, Uxbridge, Surrey
Tel: (0483) 64867. Jour tel: (0483) 273205

I answered this ad 7 years ago . .

My first full year in this business was at the age of 22 after a successful career in another industry. Having never sold before, I had the same reservations that you probably have now, but boredom and a lack of purpose in life made me enquire further. My income has since risen by 600% and I enjoy genuine job satisfaction in providing a really worthwhile service. I have no redundancy fears, am paid exactly what I'm worth, and have all the advantages of running my own business without any of the problems. The same opportunity is available to you now and I urge you to phone one of my colleagues to enquire further (TMW).

Dial 180 today and ask for "Freelance Achievement" and speak personally to one of our Branch Management Team in major towns and cities throughout the U.K.

General Appointments

VAT Specialist

Spicer and Pegler, a major international firm of Chartered Accountants and Management Consultants, wish to appoint a VAT specialist in their expanding Tax Consultancy Group.

The ideal candidate will possess practical experience and extensive knowledge of VAT procedures. A working knowledge of Computers and/or experience in training would be an advantage. This position would suit someone with an HM Customs and Excise or professional background.

This is a challenging role providing client contact and excellent opportunities for rapid advancement. A competitive salary is offered, dependent on experience and qualifications.

Apply in writing with CV to: Deborah Romanowska, Spicer and Pegler, St. Mary Axe House, 56-60 St. Mary Axe, London EC3A 8BJ.

Spicer and Pegler
Chartered Accountants

High-Quality Catering Deputy Cook

Are you an experienced Cook, in your mid-twenties, with at least two years' training leading to C & G 702 1/2 or equivalent, and have previous relevant experience?

If so, we can offer you a most attractive opportunity to complete a small team which is engaged in the preparation of lunches to a high standard for our Council Members and Senior Executives - up to 80 places.

You will deputise for the Chef and be required to take charge of the kitchen from time to time, therefore proven man-management skills are essential.

The attractive benefits include a starting salary of around £7,000pa, free travel, non-contributory pension scheme and free medical insurance.

Please telephone for an application form or write with full details to Barbara Cousin, Personnel Officer, The Stock Exchange, Old Broad Street, London EC2N 1HP. Telephone 01-588 2355 (ext 28683).

The Stock Exchange

TELECOMMUNICATIONS MARKET RESEARCH

CSP International, an expanding telecommunications consulting firm, requires a Research Analyst to undertake market research. Specific requirements include:

- Thorough knowledge of UK telecommunications market (work experience in UK essential).
- Extensive knowledge of US telecommunications regulatory bodies (especially the FCC).
- Experience of market research in the US telecommunications industry, preferably with a consulting firm.

The successful candidate will also assist in marketing CSP International's consulting services.

Write with current CV to:

Charles Jacobson,
Managing Director,
CSP International,
11-15 Wigmore Street,
London W1.

ACCOUNTANT

Growing Public listed company in publishing with substantial overseas activities and a turnover of around £190 million requires Chartered Accountant, experienced in Group Consolidations and Computer Assisted Systems (preferably Mini). The position at the Company's Head Office in London, created because of continuing growth, offers considerable scope for advancement. The age of the successful applicant is expected to be around 30. Starting salary c.£15,000.

Please send comprehensive Curriculum Vitae including salary history to Box 2864 T, The Times.

MARKET ANALYST

Small independent consultancy company, specialising in international chemical/fertiliser industry requires literate numerate graduate with some work experience preferably in related field. Age 25-35 based in London. Salary negotiable. Send CV to Box 1014 T, The Times.

Public Appointments



Chief Executive and Town Clerk

Remuneration / benefits up to £30,000

The present Chief Executive, Mr. David Ansbro, has been appointed to a similar post with Kirklees Metropolitan District Council and will be leaving York during March.

Over the past three to four years the City Council has reviewed a number of its major policy areas and is now actively looking at its overall management processes in terms of Member and Officer organisation and responsibilities. From being a fairly traditional authority it is going through a process of self-examination and change. The City Council is therefore looking for an ambitious manager to maintain and develop this process and the various initiatives arising therefrom. The person appointed will be head of the Council's paid service, leader of the Management Team and principal policy adviser to the Council. Departmental responsibilities include personnel, management services and tourism.

Experience in management and proven capability in leadership and inter-personal skills are regarded as of prime importance.

Salary at maximum plus fees and other benefits amounts to approximately £30,000 per annum. A generous relocation package is available.

If you are interested, further details may be obtained from D. A. Ansbro, Esq., Chief Executive and Town Clerk, York City Council, Guildhall, York YO1 1QN or by telephone 0904 59881 Ext. 207.

If you want a preliminary discussion about the job telephone David Ansbro on 0904 59881 Ext. 200.

Closing date: Friday, 1st February 1985.

HORIZONS

The Times guide to career development

Satisfaction and a lifestyle

Susan Stone's New Year card from "Nicasia" described building a school on a state cotton farm, with volcanoes on the horizon, and the nearest town miles away down a track which is partly a river bed. The path which took her, at the age of 36, to a remote, possibly dangerous, destination for four hard-working months (which are costing her more than £400) began in New Zealand. She grew up on a sheep station of half a million acres with home schooling and a father who had been detained as a conscientious objector.

Susan said: "My first experience of oppression was in South Africa, where I became involved with a Quaker community at Sharpsville, during travels through Africa with friends, by Land-Rover and camping."

Susan arrived in London with teaching experience, supplemented by studying the teaching of English as a second language. Wanderlust took her to Finland for a couple of working summers, while, in London, "I joined a language school in Oxford Street and became involved in founding a union for foreign language teachers. We had no workers' rights: no contracts, no sick pay or holiday pay. We were hired and fired at whim."

They were fired and the redundant teachers formed their own language school. Fee scales matched incomes and "12 scholarships were given to political refugees from Colombia, Chile, El Salvador."

When two agencies abroad didn't pay up the £10,000 they owed, the cooperative went bust. Susan joined Women's Link Up, promoting courses for women inspired to enter cooperative business ventures. In holidays she cycled through China and joined a work camp in Cuba. "Where we built flats and picked guavas - 25 of us from Britain", that trip cost her more than £200. On her return from her next socialist state this spring, Susan will job hunt. Her connections with movements from cooperatives to GND and national solidarity campaigns will, she expects, ensure fruitful employment. "I've chosen a path where my political commitment lies. That grows stronger," she said.

Ann Hills on how four people created careers

Laurence Golding conceived Head for the Hills when he fell in love with the English countryside as he toured with puppet and theatrical companies a decade ago. His idea was to lead up to a dozen people in the countryside for holidays, taking them camping in the hills, valleys, remote places, with food, showers and comforts laid on so that returning to town was unnecessary.

Head for the Hills began with a nest egg of around £2,000. Up to 100 guests a year stay with Head for the Hills for up to a fortnight. "Sixty per cent return," he said, "including a year's holiday and his wife who have flown over specially from America. I've not had a brass farthing in grants: I've enjoyed making it work as an ecologist and a devolutionist."

A ride to the top

Andrew Pugh, 42, enthuses about success, having pioneered self-service petrol stations with BP. Later he joined British Oxygen as merchandising manager, opening a national network of sales outlets.

When Pugh was, by this time, an affluent company man with a penchant for racing inshore powerboats fast enough to break a British record on Lake Windermere in 1970. But by the mid-1970s and newly married, he decided he no longer wanted to commute, or work among a large labour force.

A "for sale" advertisement in *The Times* led Pugh to the Heights of Abraham, an historic hilltop with woods and caves above Mallock Bath in Derbyshire.

Having embarked on studying management of landscape and tourism (he was recently appointed Chairman of the East Midlands Tourist Board) Andrew concluded that an alpine cable car was the ideal

way to reach the peak in style. It was built in a record six months by a French company.

The first few months have amply justified the £1 million investment (£100,000 granted by the English Tourist Board, the rest borrowed). On the top of the hill is a new visitor centre and there are theatrical displays in caverns.

Pugh's advice is "look ahead. The man who waits for an upturn is too late."

The 130-hour week man

Francis Daly, who built The Waterfront Hotel in Hull, is planning a multi-million pound hotel and conference centre in Leeds.

His drive came, he says, from a Catholic upbringing in Kilkenny. "We went barefoot to school over the fields. I knew two people who died of hunger." His first bicycle, made from two wrecked bikes, triggered knowledge of practical engineering.

A scholarship led, Francis came to Hull in 1969 with £40 to study engineering. He invited fellow students to pay £100 in advance for a year's accommodation, and thus accumulated cash to purchase his first house - for £480. Once that was habitable, he repeated the process, learning to plumb, mix cement and shore up decaying structures, "working 130 hours a week". He gained his degree owning eight houses.

He acquired the Wilberforce warehouse in Hull's dockland and converted it into a club, restaurant and hotel. The first phase cost £65,000, raised mainly by selling houses. "I kept prices low by doing my own designs, right down to dinner switches," he said. Francis is turning to larger matters elsewhere. "I hope to sign a licence next month to acquire an ex-munitions factory and a warehouse in Leeds city centre," he said.

In addition to a hotel and conference centre, he aims to build a leisure centre with a swimming pool and possibly a theatre. "and put a helipad on top".

Four people, not unique, who feel at one with their careers.

Go guide for job-hunters

With the Milk Round now beginning in earnest, undergraduates considering their options should bear in mind the range of graduate recruitment directories which are published annually and which supply details of employers who are planning to recruit graduates in the coming year.

The main directories include: GO (published by the New Opportunity Press), GET (published by Hobsons/CRAIC) and Roget (published by the Central Services Unit on behalf of

the Association of Graduate Career Advisory Services). Although there are certain differences in approach and style all supply details of major graduate recruiters plus information and advice on the various aspects of job hunting and applications to employers.

DOG, previously a commercial competitor to GO, has been converted into a four-part career guide. DOG 1 covers careers in accountancy,

finance and law; DOG 2 covers careers in engineering, computing and construction; DOG 3 covers careers in administration, management, retailing and marketing; and DOG 4 covers post graduate studies.

For information on all of these publications, contact your university career advisory service.

Michel Syrett

Public Appointments

Director of Law and Administration

£25,749 - £26,257

The London Borough of Harrow is seeking to appoint an experienced solicitor to succeed the Director of Law and Administration, Donald Wickers, who is retiring in the Summer of 1985.

The successful candidate will be responsible for providing and managing the following services - legal, committees, valuation and estates management, environmental health, central office services, security and catering and will be appointed proper officer for elections, electoral registration, registration of births, deaths and marriages. The postholder will also be responsible for co-ordinating the work of the Law and Administration Department with that of other departments.

The Director will be expected to contribute to the overall management of the Council's affairs as a member of the Directors' group, which is chaired by the Chief Executive.

The Council is therefore seeking a candidate who has a successful career in local government, proven ability at a senior management level, and can demonstrate the qualities required of a Chief Officer, including the ability to lead a multi-disciplinary Department and foster good working relationships at all levels and with the trade unions.

For an informal discussion telephone Donald Wickers, Director of Law and Administration, on 01-853 5671 ext. 2239 or for application form and further particulars contact Malcolm Hughes, Chief Personnel Officer, London Borough of Harrow, P.O. Box 67, Civic Centre, Harrow, HA1 2XF, ext. 2138. Closing date for applications is Monday 28th January 1985.

Harrow

an equal opportunity employer

IMPERIAL CANCER RESEARCH FUND

Assistant Secretary (Property Management)

ICRF is the pioneer cancer research organisation in the UK and the largest independent institute in Europe. The staff totals nearly 1000 and recurrent research expenditure now exceeds £20m a year.

Due to expansion in research activities and our charity shops programme this new appointment has been created within the Secretariat to administer, maintain and develop all aspects of the Fund's property portfolio. This involves the full range of legal and management matters relating to ICRF properties.

Age 25-45 ideally with experience in the acquisition and disposal of properties, co-ordination of development projects and general property management. Salary range £12,500 to £15,500 with promotion prospects. Permanent appointment. For further details and application form write or telephone to Ms. S. M. Hurley, Imperial Cancer Research Fund, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, WC2E on 01-242 0200 ext 385 quoting ref 34/85.

Chief Executive

Equal Opportunities Commission Manchester

The Equal Opportunities Commission wishes to appoint a new Chief Executive from 1st July 1985 on the retirement of the present post holder. The Commission was set up in 1975 and now has an established record in the promotion of equality of opportunity for both men and women.

Applicants should be committed to the Commission's statutory aims and objectives. They should have a record of substantial achievement in either the public or the private sector and, in addition to proven management skills, should have personal qualities of a high order.

The post holder will be the Commission's principal advisor on policy, strategy and objectives; and will be responsible to the Chairman for the management of the Commission's budget and some 170 staff. He or she will enable the Commission to review its priorities regularly, to allocate and control its resources, and to monitor the cost effectiveness of its activities.

Salary will be in the range £26,000-£32,000, depending on qualifications and experience.

Write by 28th January stating precisely how you meet our client's requirements to Hamilton Howatt, John Courtnay and Partners, 310 Chester Road, Harford, Northwich, Cheshire CW8 2AB quoting ref. C388/T. Applications are welcome from both men and women.

JC&P

John Courtis and Partners

ASSOCIATION OF METROPOLITAN AUTHORITIES DEPUTY SECRETARY

£30,852 to £33,237 inclusive

Applications are invited from candidates with relevant experience for this post, which becomes vacant following the appointment of the present Deputy Secretary to the Association.

The Association and its committees represent member authorities on a wide range of issues to central Government and other national bodies. The successful candidate will be expected to play a full part in managing the Secretariat and providing professional support to the leaders of the metropolitan local government.

Further details and application forms from AMA, 26 Old Queen Street, London SW1H 8JE (01-222 8100 ext. 244). Closing date 1 February 1985.

FRANCIS HOLLAND (CHURCH OF ENGLAND) SCHOOLS TRUST BURSAR

Applications are invited for the post of Bursar and Secretary to the Francis Holland (C of E) Schools Trust which administers two independent day schools for girls in London. The salary for this pensionable post will be in the region of £10,500 and £12,500.

Further details of the appointment may be obtained from the Bursar, 35, Bourne Street, London SW1W 8JA.

Public Appointments

PEAK DISTRICT NATIONAL PARK

NATIONAL PARK OFFICER



Applications are invited for the above post on the retirement, early in 1985, of the present National Park Officer.

The successful applicant will be the Chief Officer of the Peak Park Joint Planning Board responsible for all the Board's work, including all planning and landscape matters, estates, projects, a study centre, information and ranger services as well general administration. The Board has undertaken a great deal of pioneering work with other agencies including a recent experiment in integrated rural development.

The post requires a person of proven managerial ability to organise and lead a team of officers of various skills and to negotiate at senior level with a variety of national and local interests. He or she will need to represent effectively in public the views and policies of the Board and to maintain good working relationships with many other authorities and associations.

Applicants should be professionally qualified with many years practical experience. The post is not restricted to any particular profession of background, but experience in town and country planning, land agency, conservation or recreational provision would be helpful. Experience of the workings of English and Welsh National Parks would be a distinct advantage and although local government experience is not essential, applicants must demonstrate a good understanding of local government at a senior level.

The post will carry considerable national as well as local responsibility and offers a major challenge in reconciling the needs of those who live and work in the Park with the growing public concern for conservation and the pressures for countryside recreation.

The salary scale is £23,235 by five annual increments of £597 to £26,220 per annum.

Further details including application form and the job description are available from the Peak National Park Office. Telephone: Bakewell (062 981) 4321, ext. 359. Completed applications should be received not later than 11th February, 1985.

Aldern House, Baslow Road, Bakewell, Derbyshire, DE4 1AE.

Theo Burrell,
National Park Officer.



THE HABERDASHERS' COMPANY

Applications are invited by 31st January 1985 for the post of

ACCOUNTANT

to the Worshipful Company of Haberdashers', one of the Great Twelve Livery Companies in the City of London, & concerned with eight schools and numerous other charities.

The Accountant will be responsible for the maintenance of the Company's corporate accounts and the charitable funds for which it is Trustee, as well as a wide range of other administrative tasks.

Applicants, who need not necessarily be qualified Accountants, should be between the age of 40 & 53; normal retirement is at 65. Non contributory pension scheme. The successful applicant will join the staff on 2nd July 1985, and succeed the present accountant on 25th November, 1985.

Apply in writing for full job description and application form from the Clerk (GRIR), Haberdashers' Hall, Staining Lane, London, EC2V 7DD.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Cumbemauld c. £30,000

Applications are invited for the post of Chief Executive of Cumbemauld Development Corporation which will become vacant on retirement in mid-1985. The successful candidate will be in overall control of the Corporation's organisation and operations and will have the responsibility of leading an experienced multi-disciplined management team in the continuing development of the new town from its current population of 60,000 towards the designated size of 70,000.

A vital part of the function will be the attraction of businesses to Cumbemauld and to achieve this, the candidate must have wide experience and an empathy with those who are active in the business world. Equally, he/she must be capable of maintaining a healthy working relationship with both state and local government and with government agencies.

The qualities sought are those of leadership and initiative coupled with administrative ability. Age is likely to be in the range 40 to 55 and a proven record of achievement in senior management is essential.

Applicants should be prepared to live within or near the designated area of the new town. They should write to John Barrie or telephone (24 hour answering service) for a personal history form and further details of the post quoting reference PES/SL.

The P-E Consulting Group

PE

CHURCH MISSIONARY SOCIETY

CMS

has a vacancy for a senior Executive Assistant

in this post of significant administrative responsibility the appointee works closely with the General Secretary and his management team and with the Society's main Committees, advising and supervising them.

The person appointed must be committed to the Society's aims and have:

- professional qualifications/experience

- experience of staff management, office administration and committee work

- good communication skills.

Salary range: £9,795 - £11,256 per annum, plus London Allowance of £276 per annum. CMS Pension and Life Assurance Scheme, season ticket loan.

For further information about the terms of appointment and job description, and application form, please contact: Margaret Kenyon, UK Personnel Officer, CMS, 157 Waterloo Road, London SE1 8JU. Telephone: 01-828 8681.

Closing date for completed application forms: Monday, 28 January, 1985.

HEAD OF UK OPERATIONS LONDON SW1

WaterAid is a new and unusual registered charity. Sponsored by the British water industry, its sole concern is the water and sanitation needs of the Third World. Technical support and funding are given to low-cost and self-help initiatives, particularly where they appear capable of widespread replication.

Throughout the UK, engineers and others within the water industry are increasing understanding of overseas needs. Their innovative fund-raising (e.g. through voluntary deductions from pay or through the industry's links with its consumers) has doubled income in each successive year. Targets are £500,000 in 1985-86 and £2 million per year later in the 1980s.

The post of Head of UK Operations is new. It requires strong entrepreneurial qualities, a proven record in effective management, communication skills, and firm identification with WaterAid's goals. The salary envisaged is £10,000 - £12,000 p.a. This is lower than a suitable candidate could command elsewhere but is judged appropriate in an organisation adopting a low-cost ethic and concerned with dire poverty overseas.

Further details from:

Director (GWT), WaterAid,

1 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 8EE.

Tel: 01-222 8111

WaterAid

